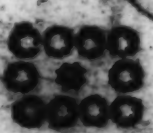
THE RENOWNED HISTORY OF VALENTINE AND ORSON,

The Two SONS of the

EMPEROR OF GREECE.

Newly Corrected and Amended.



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THE

HISTORY
OF
VALENTINE and ORSON.

CHAP. I.

How King Pepin banished his Queen Bertha; and how he gave his sister Bellisant in marriage to Alexander, emperor of Constantinople.

WE find it set down in ancient chronicles, that the thrice noble and valiant Pepin, king of France, took to wife Bertha, who was descended of royal race; This lady was very fair [illegible] much incumbered with troubles, which [illegible] patience she suffered. The chief instrument of the mischief towards this good queen, was procured by a false old woman, who first brought her in disgrace with the king her husband, and after to be banished his bed, while she in a [illegible] brought in her daughter in the queen's [illegible] old woman having brought her treachery to effect, (for her daughter was very like Bertha) it fortuned to pass that king Pepin had two sons by this woman, *viz.* Hausfrey and Henry; both which sons [illegible] the king, and wasted the country of [illegible] outrages and fury, that they caused the queen to be utterly banished. By which she endured many sorrowful days: but at last she began to receive [illegible] again; for it so happened, that at the request of divers lords of France, this good queen be-

gan

gin to find fa[illegible] with [illegible] her husband, who, when he knew the occasion of that which [illegible] against her, he much bewailed the misery [illegible] endured, and received her again with great honour and triumph. The queen being restored to her former bed, conceived and bare the king a son, called Charlemain the Puissant.

This King Pepin had a sister, named Belliſant, a woman of great wit and beauty. It chanced so, that the fame of this lovely personage spread abroad, that at last Alexander, emperor of Constantinople came into France, accompanied with a goodly troop of his nobility. This emperor, after his arrival, suddenly assembled all his lords, in their rich habiliments, appointing them to go their way towards King Pepin [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

and banished.

CHAP. II.

How the arch-priest of Constantinople betrayed the emperor, by making love to fair Bellisant the empress: and how the arch-priest, receiving a repulse of Bellisant, practised treason against her.

IN Constantinople lived an arch-priest, to whom the emperor put great trust, and communicated to him all his bosom secrets. And made him governor over all his house; as also he was his principal counsellor, and one of his greatest favourites. This priest forgetting all the emperor's favours, and being overcome with the beauty of the new empress, and of have lust to be prevailing with her, [illegible] time, spying her all alone, sitting solitarily in her chamber, he went in, and sat down by her. And he began to behold her with a smiling countenance: of all which the lady mistrusted nothing, [illegible] had she any evil thought of him: but in [illegible] many gestures of impurity, he began to [illegible] lascivious thoughts in a pleasing and amorous manner.

His speech being ended, the lady, [illegible] grave and prudent carriage, made an [illegible] answer to this wicked priest: 'Thou false, unjust, and devilish priest! stain to thy profession! how dareth thou open thy mouth to such a mark of villanies as may [illegible] confute: First, as I may say against thy

sacred

sacred order; and secondly, against the majesty of that emperor that ever nourished thee, and hath raised thee to great dignities, and from whom may justly proceed the sentence of condemnation both on thee and me, if he knew but thy lascivious and wicked practices? Let fall, I say, these vile provocations to lust, and leave, for ever hereafter, to sollicit me in this manner; which if thou prosecutest any farther, thou canst expect nothing but a shameful downfal, and a most damnable death. Therefore depart, and see that you tempt me no more.

This angry farewel of the worthy empress stung the priest at the very heart, but he durst make no reply, but craved pardon for his bold and rash follies committed. Thus being sore troubled in mind, he resolved several ways what to do against this innocent lady. And seeing the emperor knew nothing of this matter from the empress Bellisant, how the arch-priest would have intic'd her to disloyalty to him, but could not; therefore he began to accuse her to the emperor for divers crimes. The arch-priest having now begun to set abroach his devilish practices, he at last resolved that he would, under the cloak of dissimulation make known his watchful care of his estate, welfare and person. It fell out on a day when he spy'd the emperor alone, he began to break out in this manner:

O emperor! thus it is Bellisant your wife, and sister to the king of France, she whom you have advanced to this state and dignity, faileth in the duty and loyalty which she owes to her dread lord; for she wandereth in her love, giveth that to another which is proper only to yourself: To name the person to your majesty, I will not, for you know I am a sacred priest, and may not spill the blood of any man, but know, for certain, that by the

the very confession I came to the light thereof, wherefore I neither ought nor will bewray the name of him that betrays your bed: And what is worse, she daily desires your death, which grieves my heart to think on.

The emperor having heard this accusation, little mistrusted the treachery of this arch-priest, and gave credit to all his fair but false words, and therewith became extreme pensive, that his trust in her beauteous love had been thus deceived.

Upon a day entering into the chamber of his fair Bellisant, without speaking to her at all, in a most fierce manner, took her by the hair of her head, and dragged her about the chamber, that the blood besmeared her face in a most inhuman sort. Alas, my Lord, said she, what moves you to this unwelcome outrage? I call the gods to witness, I never did any thing in my life against your honour, or ever prostituted my body to any stranger's love. The emperor, not being thus satisfied, said, Thou whore! I am too well informed of thy proceedings, and curst be the day that ever I saw thy false deceitful face; and with that dashed her head against the ground, insomuch, that all the damsels, her attendants, thought she had been dead.

The court being in an uproar upon this, up rose a just, wise, courageous and bold baron, and spoke to the emperor in this manner; Right worthy Sir, I could wish you to be well advised, this lady is your espoused wife, sister to great king Pepin of France, who when he shall hear of the great injury done to her, will muster up all his men of war, and suddenly surprize all our towns, wives and children, and revenge upon us these cruel deeds unto his sister. The worthy baron having ended his advice, the lady

fell upon her knees before the emperor, and in tears thus she spake.

Alas! my Lord, take pity on an ignorant lady, for I am so free from any evil act, that I never so much as thought any evil against your person or dignity. At least, my Lord, pity the fruit of my body, for I am great with child by you. If nothing can appease your anger to me, then let my body be imprisoned in some strong tower till the time of my delivery, and then do with my body what pleaseth you, so the fruit of my body may be kept safe. The courtiers perceiving nothing could mitigate the rage of the emperor, by a common consent removed her out of his presence into another chamber. Having thus conveyed her away, the ladies that were her attendants fetched water to wash her face, and did all they could to comfort her.

By this time the emperor's choler was a little pacified, by means of his lords and barons that attended him; insomuch that he caused Bellisant to be brought before him. When she was come, his heart trembled and fretted for anger that he durst not put her to death for fear of her mighty and puissant brother king Pepin of France. I would, said he, make thee fry in the fire, as an example to all false ladies; but stand and hear thy judgment: I banish thee out of my empire, and that to-morrow thou depart out of this city; and if thou be seen here any more, thou shalt assuredly suffer death in all extremity. The emperor having pronounced sentence against her, the empress, with her servant Blandiman, took horse and passed thro' the city towards one of the gates thereof; there met her great multitudes of people, lamenting the loss of so good an empress.

When she was out of the walls of the city, and

entered into the wild fields, she fell into a violent fit of weeping and complaining, the anguish whereof struck her into a swoon as she sat on horse-back; but her servant used all possible and speedy means for her recovery. And now we turn to the traiterous priest, who was the cause of all these evil practices.

CHAP. III.

How the arch-priest put on the habit of a knight at arms, and being well mounted, followed the empress Bellisant, who was lately banished. How Bellisant in her banishment was delivered of two sons in the wood, whose names were Valentine and Orson, and how she lost them.

THE arch-priest having wrought [illegible] of fair Bellisant, began [illegible] should surely accomplish his desire, [illegible] changed his white rocket into a coat [illegible] sword; and being thus accoutred, he mounted [illegible] milk-white steed; and thus mounted, he made after her with all expedition, enquiring of all he met which way the lady Bellisant was gone. After [illegible] hours riding he came to a spacious forest, [illegible] direct way towards the lady. It chanced [illegible] his eye aside, spied the lady, with her servant Blandiman, sitting by a fountain, lamenting her miserable fortune; Blandiman used all the means he could to comfort her. The false priest [illegible] ceived it to be the lady; but by reason [illegible] guise, she could not imagine him to be [illegible] priest her enemy; but coming nearer her, she [illegible] him; and being struck with a sudden [illegible] her servant. Alas! I well perceive this [illegible] the arch-priest coming towards us, and [illegible]

fearful leſt he comes to do me further villany. Lady, ſaid Blandiman, if he comes to do you further harm, I'll encounter him body for body. The arch-prieſt was ready to alight from his horſe to ſalute the Lady; and after he had made himſelf known to her, he ſaid to her in this manner.

Dear lady, thy caſe is ſo pitiful, as to ſuffer baniſhment by ſentence given againſt thee by the emperor; if thou wilt give me entertainment in thy love, I will bring it to paſs, that the emperor ſhall recall thy baniſhment; and make thee ſhine more bright than before. Ah! quoth the lady, thou diſloyal and traiterous adverſary, I have no cauſe to bellow love where my life hath been put in jeopardy. Quoth he, utter not ſuch expreſſions againſt me, for I am come not to vex or trouble you. And in ſpeaking theſe words, he bent his body to the lady, meaning to have kiſſed her: but Blandiman perceiving his intent, got between them, and gave the arch-prieſt ſuch a ſtroke as felled him to the earth. The arch prieſt had no ſooner recovered himſelf, but preſently betook himſelf to his ſword: which Blandiman perceiving, took a glave, which he had about him; whereupon grew a ſore fight between them. This encounter laſted ſo long, that they were both wounded; but at laſt, a merchant came by, who perceiving their fierce encounter, cried out, Lords leave off, and tell me the cauſe of your variance, and I'll endeavour to end this controverſy. Sir, quoth Blandiman, let us firſt try our right by weapons, and then we'll be ruled by words: But the poor lady could no longer keep ſilence; but ſaid to the merchant, Alas! this man which you ſee arm'd is the falſe and traiterous arch-prieſt, that hath followed me to rob me of my honour, and force me to his inſatiable luſt;

this is he that hath made a ſeparation between me and the emperor, my lord and huſband.

The merchant, hearing her lamentable tale, ſaid to the arch-prieſt, Sir prieſt, leave off your enterprize, dare not ſo much as touch this innocent lady; for if the emperor underſtood this villany, he would ſoon end thy life in infamy. As ſoon as the arch-prieſt heard this, he forſook his combat, and fled through the wood. But his villanies were afterwards diſcloſed. The merchant ſtaid ſome little time, bewailing the hard hap of the lady, yet comforted her, ſaying, Alas! lady, I ſee that this arch-prieſt has betray'd you, and brought your into hatred with the emperor; but I'll promiſe you, that if I live, I'll betray all theſe treacheries to the emperor; and bring the traitor to a ſhameful death. [illegible] with many thanks for his aid from Blandiman, the merchant departed. The merchant having left them, Blandiman ſet the lady upon her horſe, and himſelf on his; ſo riding on, they came to a lodging in their way, where they remained eight days, (during which time her ſervant was recovered of his wounds) and then ſet forward towards France. Paſſing by Orleans, they took their way towards Paris, where king Pepin was uſed to ſojourn.

Belliſant (as aforeſaid) being with child, was ſuddenly overtaken in the foreſt; the time of her delivery being come, ſhe forſook her horſe, and bid her ſervant lay her ſoftly under a green tree, that grew hard by, and make haſte and get me the help of women, for I can go no further, ſaid ſhe, my pains ſo increaſe upon me.

Blandiman obeyed her commands, and left he ſhould not find the place again, he ſet a mark, that he might the readier come thither again; ſo away he rode to ſeek ſome women to help his diſtreſs'd

lady. He being gone, the lady was left comfortleſs, all alone, without ſuccour of any creature, and at laſt was deliver'd of two fair ſons in the deſolate foreſt. Theſe children were no ſooner come into the world, but a freſh miſery happened to this lady; for as ſhe lay under the tree, and her two infants by her, ſuddenly came a huge bear, moſt terrible to beho'd, and took up one of the infants in her mouth, and with great pace haſted into the thickeſt of the foreſt. This ſtrange and unlooked for accident frighted the diſtreſſed lady to the ſoul, that ſhe cried out moſt lamentably, ſcrambling upon her hands and knees to go after the bear, who was quickly got out of her ſight. But, alas! it little avail'd her, for ſhe never came to the ſight of her child, 'till, by miracle, it was at length diſcloſed. So long wandered this lady up and down, from place to place, weeping for her child, that being weary with travel ſhe fell ſick, and was almoſt at the point of death. In this condition we leave her, and proceed to the other child ſhe left under the tree.

It happened the ſame day that her brother, king Pepin, had taken his journey from Paris towards Conſtantinople, to viſit his ſiſter Beliſant: and ſtriking through Orleans, he made ſuch haſte, that he entered the foreſt where his baniſhed ſiſter was lately delivered of two children, but knew not what had happened. Now, as the king paſſed through this foreſt, he ſpied, lying under a tree alone, the other ſon of Beliſant; and he ſaid to his attendants, My Lords, ſee, I have here found a fair encounter, even a child. Said the Lords, It is even ſo. Take it up, ſaid the king, it ſhall be brought up at my charge as long as it lives, and be [illegible] my own; and if it live to man's eſtate, I'll [illegible]

it with lands and poſſeſſions. And calling to one of his ſquires, he gave him the charge of it, ſaying, Take this infant to Orleans, ſee it baptized, provide a nurſe for it, and let it want nothing. The king little ſuſpecting, that this child was his nephew. The ſquire, as the king had commanded him, bore the child to Orleans, had it baptized, and gave it his own name called Valentine; and ſought a nurſe, and gave it great attendants, according to the king's command. This done, the king proceeded on his journey towards Conſtantinople, to ſee his beauteous ſiſter Belliſant. But ere he could paſs through the foreſt, he chanced to meet with Blandiman, accompanied with a woman that he had brought in order to aſſiſt his lady in her greateſt extremity of child-birth.

Blandiman ſeeing the king, knew him, and ſuddenly alighted from his horſe, doing his duty to him. The king perceiving that it was Blandiman, aſked, What news from Conſtantinople? and above all, How his ſiſter Belliſant did? Blandiman anſwered, Moſt gracious ſovereign, I muſt tell you ſtrange news of your loving ſiſter, and how ſhe [illegible]. Wherefore ſo it is, that by force of treaſon by the arch-biſhop of Conſtantinople, ſhe is baniſhed out of the emperor's court and dominions, and, but for the [illegible] of the Lords of the emperor's court, and others, ſhe had been burnt to aſhes in the ſight of all the people.

King Pepin having heard the lamentable relation of Blandiman, he broke out in [illegible] againſt her, ſaying, I think the emperor [illegible] in ſparing the life of my ſiſter; for [illegible], that if I had her now in my poſſeſſion, by [illegible] I would make her an example to all falſe ladies, [illegible] the world endureth. Then commanded his

lords and others to ſtay their journey, and return back to Paris; for the grievous offences of my ſiſter ſtays my journey. And ſo in that diſtruſt and melancholy, king Pepin returned towards Orleans. When Blandiman perceived the king thus daunted and ſurpriſed, he durſt proceed no further in his relation of the lady Belliſant; but leaving the king, took his way towards the great tree, where he lately left her in the pains of child-birth: being come thither, he ſought for her every where, but could hear no tidings of her, neither knew he which way to take: being in this extaſy, at laſt he tied his horſe to a thorn tree, and began to make a cloſer ſearch than before, and at length he found her lying flat on the earth, in a manner ſpeechleſs. Blandiman being glad he had found her, took her up in his arms, and ſet her on her feet, ſaying, Alas! dear lady, how came you to ſtray ſo far from the place where I left you.

The lady replied, Ah! Blandiman, my diſtreſſes daily increaſe; for thou wert no ſooner gone, but I being delivered of two babes, a ravenous bear aſſailed me, and bore away one of them; and I endeavoured, though in vain, to overtake this ſavage creature, leaving the other infant under the tree. Lady, quoth he, the other infant? Why, I came but lately from the tree, and am well aſſured there lay no infant there. How, quoth the lady, no child under the tree! With theſe words ſhe fell into a ſwoon; but Blandiman uſed his utmoſt endeavours to comfort her. Then ſhe cried out, Come death and finiſh what ſorrows do prolong.

All this while Blandiman heard her piteous complaints, inſomuch that he grew weary of her grief; at laſt ſhe betaking herſelf to her feet, he accompanied her, with a woman he had brought with him

to a neighbouring village, where they lodged, and nourished her, until she had recovered strength. Then Blandiman told her, how he by chance met with her brother, king Pepin, and as soon as he understood that the emperor had exiled you, he lightly gave credit that you was in fault, and lays all the blame on you.

O! quoth the lady, now what I most feared is come to pass, and I perceive, I am beset with adversaries on every side. I will never return again to Paris, but take me away to some remote land where my body, with my faults, shall be smothered, for my brother's anger is so great, that he would willingly deliver me to death; therefore it is better to fly and save my life, than fall into the fury of so angry a brother. Thus she spake with tears. Well Blandiman, Lady, leave off your tears, and be assured of my fidelity; Why then, said she, since thou art so faithful, let us resolve upon some strange adventure. So they passed forth to expose themselves to future dangers, where now we leave them with sorrowful hearts, and return again to say something of the bear that carried away one of the children.

CHAP. IV.

Of the bear that bare away one of the children.

THE bear (as you heard of) that carried away one of the children, all this while had offered it no violence, but bare it to her cave. In this cave the bear had four young ones, among whom she laid the child to be devoured; yet all that while the young bears did it no harm, but with their rough paws stroaked it softly. The old one seeing they did not devour it, shewed a

kind of favour towards it, insomuch that she kept it, and gave it suck among her young ones, for the space of one year. The child by reason of the nourishment it received, became all rough over like a beast, and as he grew in strength, began to range up and down the woods; and when he met with other beasts would smite them, and got such a mastery over them, that they began to shun the place where he came. And in that beast-like estate he passed the term of fifteen years, growing up in such strength, that scarce any man or beast in the forest durst stir abroad, lest he should kill them, and afterwards eat their flesh. His name was called Orson, because a bear had been his nurse, and was also grown rough like a bear. The renown of the wild man grew so great, and spread so far abroad over all the realm of France, that they of the country round about hunted him, but prevailed not; for he never feared weapons or engines, for he passed through them all, snapping them in pieces. All this time he lived in the forest, he neither wore a garment, nor had any kind of speech.

Here we leave the wild man in the forest, and look what became of the lady Bellilant and her servant Blandiman, and we shall suddenly find them wandering through several lands and countries, the lady still bewailing the loss of her two children. But in the midst of her sorrow, yet passed on their journey, till at length she came to a port in Portugal, on which stood an invisible castle, kept by a giant called Ferragus, so large, that there was not a horse to be found that could bear the living mass of this huge giant. It happened at this castle, that every ship that passed by that port, was to pay tribute to this giant, which he himself daily came on

power to receive. At length he came into the wood where the lady Bellisant was, and casting his eyes about, he spied her; then kindly taking her by the hand, he led her into the castle to his wife, for he was married to a beautiful lady. Blandiman followed his lady also, fearing the giant; but he behaving himself so nobly, that he did not offer her the least violence, but presented her to his wife, who gladly received her; the giant having charged his wife to use her and Blandiman honourably.

During her abode in the castle, she would often shed tears for the loss of her two children, and the lady of the castle would often comfort her in the best manner she could. Within this castle she tarried a long time. And here we must leave her, and return back to tell you something of the emperor of Constantinople and the arch-priest.

CHAP. V.

How by the counsel of the arch-priest, new customs and taxations were raised through the city of Constantinople; and how the treason came to light. How the emperor sent for king Pepin, to see the combat fought between the arch-priest and the merchant.

THE emperor having shamefully expelled Bellisant his wife, often repented him of the fact; and the arch-priest being an oracle in his ears, insomuch, that he heaped new honours continually upon that traiterous wretch, advancing him above the highest empire; whatever he commanded was effected. At last, having got all power and authority in his own hands, he began to raise the customs and taxes of the city of Constantinople;

forth to the heart of the inhabitants. Amongst these his impositions, it happened, that, according to their yearly customs, there was held a great mart in the city, which was about the month of September. Hereunto resorted a great number of people, especially merchants. The mart-day being come, the emperor gave the charge thereof to this arch-priest; who accordingly provided himself, and armed two hundred men to guard his own person. Being thus accompanied, he took his way into the city.

It so chanced, that, among the rest of those that sold wares, the merchant was there present, of whom you have heard before; *viz.* he that came riding by the way where Blandimar the lady's squire, and the treacherous arch-priest were fighting. The arch-priest perceived him, but took no notice of him, for he was fearful that all his villany should come to light. The sight of the merchant much troubled the arch-priest, so that he wished his death, and would have effected the same, by the authority he now had, but that he feared some great tumult would arise thereby. Now mark what followed: The merchant was furnished with costly wares, as cloth of gold, silver, silk, *&c.* and took more money than any five merchants beside. The fair being ended, the arch-priest sent forth his officers to demand his accustomed duties. One officer came to the merchant and said, Sir, you must pay 10 *d.* for every pound you have taken, it being so ordered by the great officers to whom it belongs. He at this being angry, said, Cursed be that disloyal arch-priest, for he is the only cause of these new raised exactions: it had been well if he had long since had his desert, and with shame and infamy ended his days. At which reproachful words, the officer took

took his staff, and struck the merchant on the head, that presently the blood gushed out: then the merchant drew his sword, and struck the officer, that he laid him at his feet for dead.

Upon this, arose a great rout through the fair, insomuch that the other officers coming up to help their fellow, took the merchant and carried him before the arch-priest. The arch-priest would have put him to death, but the merchant appealed to justice, to have his cause tried by law. The arch-priest fearing the people, sent him away to the emperor, for nothing could satisfy him but his life; but in seeking the life of the merchant he purchased his own death. The emperor in person sat as judge, and the arch-priest brought his advocate to plead his cause. Which was, That the merchant had committed murder, and had spoken opprobrious words against the arch-priest. The advocate having ended his accusation, the merchant fell on his knees before the emperor, and said, Most excellent prince, give me but audience, and I shall unfold a matter of such importance, that it touches your person in the highest degree of treason. Say on, said the emperor. Mighty emperor, I advise you to make fast the gates about your palace, that none depart this place. The emperor did as he requested. Then said the merchant, All you that love the honour of the emperor, attend my words; The time is come that the treason of the cursed arch-priest will be revealed, and come to light. Great emperor, this is that curs'd man, that you have nourished, and brought to great honour, who hath deceived your trust; for he it is that hath wrought all the discord between you and your virtuous lady, whom you have banished from your bed; and by whom you have received more dishe-

hour than ever he received honour from you; for he fiercely and underhand, made love to the empress: but she disdained him; which he perceiving, there was no likelihood to accomplish his desire, it drove him into fear that this disloyal act would come to light, and therefore devised to falsify unto your ears her faithful love to your bed. All which his false accusations I will here unfold the truth of what those eyes were witnesses.

It happened on a day, after the banishment of the empress, as I was riding about my affairs, I chanced to travel through a wood, and found this treacherous priest, transformed out of the habit of a priest, into that of a knight, ready for combat. Drawing nearer, I beheld him fighting with another man unarmed, who at last I found to be Blandimain, squire to the banished lady, who conducted her in the time of her exile. I perceiving they encountered each other so fiercely, I called to them to give over; but they little regarded me. I perceived the lady weeping; and at last she said unto me, Gentle merchant, assist me against this treacherous arch-priest, that seeketh by force to rob me of my honour: this is he by whom I am banished from my emperor's bed and country. With that I put spurs to my horse, and ran between them to part them: which the arch-priest perceiving, he fled into the wood, I well knowing who he was. Noble emperor, it had been my part to have revealed this long ago, but I durst not, for fear his greatness should have overswayed my truth, and so have brought myself to an untimely end.

The emperor having heard all this, he sighed, and at at last fell into tears, then turned to the arch-priest, saying, Well, I have seen now what I ever misdoubted! Thou hast made me, of all men, most un-

unhappy! Thy treason hath bewitched me, in an evil hour I gave credit to thy false tongue!

The arch-priest hearing what the emperor said, began to intreat him not to be so impatient, nor to give credit to this slanderous tale of the merchant against him. For, says he, he belies me, and I am not guilty of what he accuseth me with. Thou liest, quoth the merchant; if thou denyest what I charge thee with, and if thou standest still in the denial, I challenge thee by single combat to maintain the truth, and more than that, ere night I will deliver my body to death, or yield myself vanquished.

The emperor seeing the merchant so resolute, he said, arch-priest, it is time that either thou quit thyself by answering this challenge, or yield thyself guilty of what has been laid to thy charge. The arch-priest replied, Mighty emperor, to answer to the merchant's challenge is contrary to my place and calling; for I am a sacred prelate of the church, and therefore I may refuse to fight. Nay, said the emperor, in this case no excuse is to be admitted, but you must either fight or yield yourself a traitor to our crown and dignity. At these words the arch-priest was sorely troubled in mind, yet at last he was fain to accept the combat. So the emperor commanded them both to safe keeping, until he had sent letters to king Pepin of France.

The day of combat being appointed, tidings came to the emperor, that king Pepin was come to France, to assist the pope against the infidels. The emperor hearing thereof, sent ambassadors that were commanded to invite king Pepin to Constantinople, intending thereby to make him an eye-witness of the contentions, and to prove the arch-priest a traitor.

The ambaſſadors, after long travel, arrived at Rome, where they found king Pepin; who having had notice of their coming, gave them entertainment according to their ſeveral degrees. Then the ambaſſadors ſaid, Great Lord, we preſent theſe letters from Alexander your brother, emperor of Conſtantinople, of which we intreat a ſpeedy anſwer.

King Pepin took the letters graciouſly, and read them; after which, he ſaid, My Lords, the emperor ſends me word, that my ſiſter Belliſant has been wrongfully baniſhed; and that, by reaſon of a falſe arch-prieſt, to whom he gave too much truſt, which prieſt, for theſe his treaſonable facts, is accuſed by a merchant, who has challenged this treacherous prieſt to ſingle combat. Now, the day and place is ready for the trial of this fact, whereby I ſhall be fully ſatisfied whether my ſiſter has been guilty of what ſhe has been charged with, and ſh meful y baniſhed for. Upon all which, I ſwear and vow, by my crown and dignity, that if the emperor has offered this indignity without juſt cauſe, I will be revenged of him in the extremeſt manner that war can thunder forth. Having ended his ſpeech to his lords, in preſence of his ambaſſadors, commanded that every man ſhould accompany him to Conſtantinople, to behold this fight between the merchant and the archprieſt. The day of his departure from Rome being come, he takes his way towards Conſtantinople. The emperor, hearing of his coming, made triumph to welcome him. The emperor, mounted on horſeback, richly accompanied, marched out of the city to meet his brother king Pepin. At laſt they met; but the emperor, overcome with ſorrow at the remembrance of Belliſant, could not utter a word: On the other ſide, king Pepin being fiercely angered at what had happened to his ſiſter, gave no reſpect

to

to the emperor, but began to gird him in this manner: Emperor, quoth he, leave off your lamentations and sorrows which you seem to shew for my sister, for he that has a harlot to his wife is unwise to grieve at her misbehaviour.

Nay, said the emperor, speak not evil of your sister; for I am now fully persuaded she is virtuous and honest, and that against all equity I have banished her out of my country. Think you so now, quoth king Pepin? then are you worthy of a double shame to proceed against an innocent lady, and, like a common harlot, throw her out into banishment, being of the royal blood of France.

The emperor hearing the king so bitter again him, said to him, Alas! my Lord, do not thus follow me with anger, I have sent for you with intent that your eyes may be witness of the truth. It is true, quoth king Pepin, but it is all too late what you now say, for you have delivered over my sister to the world's infamy, even to banishment; and for ought I know to death itself.

Whilst these words passed between them, they were now entered Constantinople, where with great joy they were received of the inhabitants. The emperor would have had king Pepin [illegible] with him in his palace, but [illegible] caused his train to lodge within [illegible] himself also. Then the emperor [illegible] gifts and presents to be offered him, but [illegible] rejected them, resenting the injustice done to his sister.

CHAP. VI.

How the merchant and the arch-priest [illegible] about the clearing of the Lady Bellisant: and [illegible] victory did befall the merchant.

King Pepin, after the combat, returned into France, and after failed to Rome to fight the Saracens that had surprized the city.

NOW was the day appointed come, for the combat between the arch-priest and the merchant; and every thing was in readiness, according to the command of the emperor. At last came both the combatants into the field, and presented themselves before the emperor. The arch-priest was armed in a most sumptuous armour of proof, all embossed with gold and pearl, which made such a glittering show, that it dazzled the eyes of the beholders. The arch-priest came forth into the field, and took his place appointed him, at one end of the list. The emperor beholding the glorious show that the arch-priest made in his arms, called forth the merchant, causing him first to kneel down, and in the presence of the assembly dubbed him knight; then commanded he that a rich armour should be put on him, in presence of king Pepin; who during the time he was arming, promised to his merchant, if he overcame the arch-priest, to advance him to great livings and high authority.

The two adversaries being now in readiness, their horses were brought forth, and they mounted, ready to give battle. The emperor gave strict charge to all his officers of arms, to have a special eye upon the arch-priest, lest he should fly the field, or run away from them. The merchant being mounted, and his sword girt to him, first entered the lists: then came the arch-priest, accompanied with nobles of great honour and dignity. The combatants thus entered the lists, ready to charge each other, king Pepin called out aloud to the merchant, saying, My friend, the gods give thee victory over this

traitor. The merchant replied, Dread King, I doubt not but this night to make this traiterous priest confess, that he has villanously sought the destruction of your sister. Then came a herald and administered to them both an oath, and so clearing the lists, left the champions to their fortunes. The marshals of the field brought each of them a spear, which they had no sooner received but they put spurs to their horses, and run with such violence together, that their spears were broken in their hands: Then they set forward for another course, charging each other with their swords, in such a violent manner, that they cut off whole quarters of their corslets. The arch-priest seeing himself so stiffly matched, gave over the fight till towards the evening, (for such was the custom of the country) thinking thereby to weary out the merchant; which the merchant perceiving, he prepared to meet the arch-priest courageously, when he encountered him, which being not long after, the merchant so redoubled his strokes, that he smote off one of his ears; and [illegible] the violence of the same blow, the [illegible] sword fell from his hands; which the [illegible] seeing, put spurs to his horse, and charged him [illegible] such violence that he ran against the merchant's horse, and thrust out one of his eyes; the beast feeling himself hurt, ran up and down as [illegible] being so furiously, that he threw his rider; the merchant's foot hung in the stirrup, whereby he was in great danger. King Pepin was [illegible] at this disaster, that the tears trickled down [illegible] cheeks.

Now that which most miraculous was, that all the time the merchant was dragged up and down the field, with his foot hanging in the stirrup, the [illegible] could not loose [illegible]

back to and fro; so that he could not make a pass at the merchant, as he intended. But at last the merchant's horse fell down, and he got his foot clear of the stirrup.

The priest perceiving he had recovered his legs, ran with violence upon him, and gave him five or six blows upon his shoulders, that the poor merchant was astonished. At last he was forced to give back to recover breath; and in a little time he gave a fresh assault upon the arch-priest, with such violence, that the sword fell out of his hand; but he first so wounded him that the blood ran through his armour upon the earth. This so vexed the priest, that he grew mad with rage, and turned his horse upon the merchant, thinking to have over-run him; but the merchant observing his drift, prepared to receive him, and drawing a long knife, punched it into the belly of the horse, which made him fling and leap, so that the priest was like to have been unhorsed: and striving to save himself, he lost his shield. The merchant seeing him unarmed, ran hastily and caught up his shield, and cast it away; and then making towards his horse, smote him in the belly with his sword, which brought both horse and rider to the ground.

The priest being thus unhorsed, endeavoured to recover himself; but the merchant gave him such a blow, that he laid him flat upon the ground again, and leaping on him, pulled off his helmet, thinking to have smitten off his head. The arch-priest seeing himself in such danger, said, I pray thee, friend, take pity on me, and give me leave to confess: for I yield myself vanquished. The merchant was very courteous, and granted his request. So the arch-priest was no sooner got to his feet, but clasping the merchant in his arms, threw him on the ground, and leaped

leaped upon him, saying to the merchant, I have now an advantage over thee, and thou shalt not escape with life, if thou dost not exhibit what I command thee. Ah! said the merchant, hast thou betrayed me? Well, I stand at thy mercy; therefore let me know what thou commandest? Then said the priest, Go with me to the emperor and king Pepin, and testify that thou hast falsely accused me; which if thou wilt do, I promise thee to save thy life. The merchant having heard what the priest said, was very sorrowful; but at length he thus answered, Sir Priest, I am ready to accomplish your desires; so let us go to the emperor, and there I will set you free from all the accusations which I have exhibited against you. Very well, said the arch-priest, then let us go together.

The merchant had no sooner got on his feet, but he began afresh to open the treason of the arch-priest, even to his teeth; and again he took courage, and suddenly clasping the arch-priest in his arms, threw him on the ground; and having him at advantage, he said, Arch-priest, seeing you have taught me to play my part, thinking no more on confessions, for you shall confess to me, or none. The arch-priest seeing himself beat at his own weapon, began again to entreat; but the merchant not regarding him, presently put out his eyes, and gave him so many deadly blows, that he secured him from doing him any further harm. Then the emperor called the marshals to the field, and said Lo, you may see I have done my endeavour against the arch-priest, and if he is vanquished, say he now my request is, that you would conduct Alexander the emperor of Constantinople, and King Pepin the prince to this place, that they may hear themselves the confession which the arch-priest shall make to them.

them: The marshals did according to the request of the merchant; and presently the emperor and King Pepin went to the place where the arch priest lay vanquished.

When the emperor and the king, with the rest of the nobles, had heard the villainous priest acknowledge that the empress was intirely innocent, and that the wicked plot was all of his own forming: who can express the joy and sorrow of these two mighty potentates, and of the rest of the assembly.

The first thing that was determined, was the execution of the wicked priest: which being finished, the emperor came to King Pepin, and in the most friendly and passionate manner, endeavoured to excuse himself to him for the disgrace of his sister; vowing, as a true mark of the sense of his indiscretion, he would be his servant to the end of his life, upon which a perpetual peace is made between them; and King Pepin, but not without some heavy cogitations, sets forward for his own country.

Great were the rejoicings in France, upon the return of their sovereign, and among others, the squire that had the keeping of Valentine, came to wait upon him, bringing with him the young man to whom he presented him, giving an account at the same time, of his extraordinary endowments both of body and mind. The king took him by the hand, and asked him several questions, which he answered with so much good sense and ability, that the king was so charmed with him, that he made him many large presents, and ordered him for to be educated with his own children.

Valentine, who was ever practising feats of arms, which the king observing, furnished him with horse and armour, and all things suitable, equal to the best knight in France, which raised him many ene-

mies,

mies among the courtiers, only Eglantine the king's fair daughter had an extreme tenderness and regard for him, and strongly opposed his going with her father to the assistance of the pope against the Saracens.

It was not long before every thing was got in a readiness for the king's journey, and Valentine, who had a high command in the army, set forward among the rest. When they came into the wood of Orleans, the king told them he was informed there was a savage in the shape of a man that infested these woods, and gave great disturbance to the passengers, he should be glad, before they proceeded any further, if he could be taken and brought before him; upon which the wood is begirt, and the king venturing too far, came to the cave where the wild man was, who no sooner saw him, but he flew upon him with great fury, and doubtless had torn him to pieces, if he had not been prevented by a knight, who drawing his sword gave the king an opportunity to make his escape. The king relates the story to the whole company, who joining themselves together, resolve to take Orson alive, or put him to death. When they came, they found the knight slain, and Orson fled; which occasioned them to give over the pursuit, till a fitter opportunity.

After this the king hastens to Rome, but before he could arrive, the Saracens had taken the town, and put many thousand Christians to the sword, which so enraged him, that he vowed revenge; however, thought it proper, to give a little respite to his army, and what after befel, shall be related in the proper place.

CHAP.

CHAP. VII.

How King Pepin besieges Rome; and how Valentine kills the admiral of the Saracens, and wins the city.

King Pepin being thus come to Rome, made a speech to his army, representing the havock that these bloody idolaters had made, and the necessity there was to give them speedy battle, desiring one of his officers would carry a letter of defiance to their admiral; which none accepting, Valentine stood up and offered to carry the message, which King Pepin greatly approved, and ordered a secretary to be brought to write one; which he signed and gave to Valentine, who accordingly delivered it to the admiral in his own palace.

Upon the receipt of this letter of defiance, the admiral was so exceeding inraged, that he swore by Mahomet, if he thought he undertook this bold adventure thro' pride and vain glory, he should be punished with death. Valentine, in his defence, pretended that he was reputed a coward in the French army, and in disgrace with the king, and had no other way to recover, but by bringing this message, which I beg you to excuse: Adding further, that I have it in command from the king, to offer to break a spear with you in single combat.

When the admiral heard this bold speech, he swore by Mahomet he should not be refused; but at this instant, says he, I offer thee the just, and to make the matter more conspicuous, it shall be done without the city. After this the marshal ordered Valentine to be entertained with the utmost respect; and withal commanded that he should be furnished with a horse and armour, in all points equal to his own.

Before

Before the time of their justing, Valentine was not wanting to let the king know what had happened, and likewise to prepare the Christians within the city to be ready against the signal. When the champions were entered the lists, and each of them prepared for the encounter, they ran the first course with such violence, that both their spears were shivered in a thousand pieces; and at the second, the admiral was quite run thro' the body, upon which the Pagans were preparing to fall upon Valentine; which king Pepin observing, marched with his whole army to his assistance; on which ensued a bloody battle, wherein the Christians at last prevailed, and slew the Saracens in mighty numbers, and so restored the city to its former liberty.

CHAP. VIII.

How Hautfrey and Henry repined at the king's love to Valentine.

KIng Pepin having relieved Rome, returns to his own country, where he is welcomed with all the demonstrations of joy: nor was Valentine unwelcome guest to the generality of the court, especially to Eglantine, who took all opportunities to give him daily tokens of her affection, only Hautfrey and Henry bore him ill-will, and sought his destruction.

It happened one day, when the king was at dinner, and Valentine was attending upon him; that the king called to him, and in the hearing of all his nobles, told him, that he was indebted to him for the preservation of his life, and for many other signal acts of duty and service; and that in consideration thereof, he freely gave him the freedom of

Clairmond and would be sure to shew him greater marks of his favour, the first opportunity.

This new declaration of the King's, gave the two brothers Haufrey and Henry fresh cause for malice and jealousy, insomuch, that they contrived daily plots to take away his life, which Valentine nothing suspecting, went on chearfully in the King's service, and grew every day more and more in his favour. But leave we this at present, to return a little to his brother Orson, against whom such frequent complaints were brought to court, that the King with the advice of his nobles, issued out his proclamation, with a reward of a thousand crowns to any that should take this furious wild man, either alive or dead, and bring his head before him.

Hereupon assembled many knights to take this affair in hand, and whilst the king was debating with them, Henry, Valentine's enemy being there, proposed to the king to send Valentine, who having offered unlawful love to your daughter Eglantine, he is the fittest to fight this savage, whom if he vanquishes, let him have her in marriage.

The king knowing the malice of his heart, replies, These speeches are ungrateful to me; I know him to be wise and valiant, and believe him to be of noble extraction; and my will is, that he have access to my daughter whenever he pleases.

Valentine, who heard all that passed, tells Haufrey, You speak ill against me without cause: however, since you propose the conquest of this wild man, I will undertake the enterprize, or leave my carcase dead in the field.

At this the king was exceeding angry at his two sons, for putting Valentine upon so dangerous an undertaking; and the fair Eglantine made great lamentation upon the same occasion, who sent one

of

of her damsels to Valentine, desiring to speak with him; but he excused himself saying, It was improper at present, but he was fully determined to take upon him the expedition, in which, if he succeeded, he would at his return do himself the honour to wait upon her; and so took his leave.

CHAP. IX.

Valentine conquers Orson his brother, a wild man in the woods of Orleans, and presents him to King Pepin.

NOW Valentine went on his journey, and soon arrived in the forest, but it being night, he tied his horse to a tree, and betook himself to the top for his security. As soon as it was day, looking round about him, he observed his brother Orson coming towards him, and coming near the tree where the horse was tied, and having never seen such a horse before, he began to scratch and tear him with his nails, upon which the horse grew mad and kicked at him with great fury.

Valentine perceiving his [illegible] cried out aloud, and said, [illegible] leave
The wild man hearing a [illegible] to the tree and seeing a [illegible] for him to come down; Valentine [illegible] halte he could, drew his sword, [illegible] saw, he leaped back, and suddenly [illegible] upon Valentine, and threw him on the [illegible] ing thus both grovelling on the ground, Valentine essayed divers times to have [illegible] Orson under him. When he saw that by [illegible] was no hope to overcome him, he pulled [illegible] and smote Orson in the [illegible] he [illegible]

wounded, fiercely assaulted Valentine with his sharp nails: They fought so long together that it is too tedious here to relate; however, so long, that they both grew faint. In which tediousness, both standing gaping upon each other, Valentine looked stedfastly upon him, made signs to him, he would give him food and raiment befitting a human creature. Orson understood his meaning, and made signs also, that he would obey him in every thing he desired. And thus Valentine conquered the wild man.

All this adventure now knitting up in this manner, he took Orson by the hand, and shewed him by signs that he should go on before him until they were out of the wood, for he durst not trust him behind; and being out of the wood, Valentine took off one of his girths, and bound his hands fast, that he should not attempt to do him any hurt; and in this manner he mounted on horseback, and led the wild man after him.

Valentine took his way towards Orleans, but you must imagine he could not reach thither in one day, therefore he resolved to lodge at the next village; but the inhabitants perceiving the wild man, they retired into their houses, and shut up their doors. Valentine cried out to them, Open your doors, every man, and fear not, for we are come only for lodging: yet for all this they would not. Valentine, by signs, bid the wild man break open one of the gates of an inn, which he did, into which they entered. Valentine went into the stable, and set up his horse: and Orson, in the mean time, went into the kitchen, where there were capons and other provisions upon a spit roasting. Valentine made signs that he should turn the spit; but he not understanding the meaning, set his talons upon the meat, and tore it from the spit, and in

a greedy manner devoured it; and seeing a caldron of water standing by, he put his head into it and drank. Valentine perceiving him to be athirst, made signs to him to forsake the water, and he would give him wine: Orson drank so freely of the wine, that he became intoxicated, and threw himself on the floor, and slept, as his custom was like a wild beast in the forest.

Now, the morning being come, Valentine betook himself to his horse, and leading the wild man bound towards Orsons, where when they arrived, the city was all in an uproar, and forsook their houses for fear of him.

By this time, tidings came to King Pepin, that Valentine had conquer'd the wild man, and brought him to Orleans. Valentine rode through the city till he came to the palace-gates of the King: and when the porter saw Orson, he shut the gates upon them, till he bid him go and tell the king, he need be under no apprehensions or fear of the wild man, for he would hurt no body. So Valentine took him by the hand, and led him into the court, where the king, accompanied by his nobles, kindly welcomed him home. The king viewed the wild man narrowly, and said, That he was of fair stature, and if he were cloathed and armed he would have the shape of a worthy knight.

Says Valentine, My liege, I think it were proper he were baptized; which being done, and dinner ended, they all went to their respective apartments, and Valentine and Orson were appointed to a fair chamber and bed; but as soon as Orson entered, he laid him down on the ground, and fell asleep.

CHAP. X.

How Haufrey and Henry conſpire to murder Valentine; and how Duke Savary ſent to king Pepin for aid against the green knight who threatned to marry his daughter againſt his will.

SO glad and joyful was the lady Eglantine, that Valentine had conquered the wild man, that ſhe ſent him word to bring the wild man to her. Then he took Orſon by the hand, and led him to her, where were aſſembled divers ladies to behold him; and Orſon entertained them with ſeveral diverting ſigns and geſtures. While this aſſembly were in Eglantine's chamber, Haufrey came to Henry, and ſaid to him, Brother, you ſee how the honour of this foundling increaſeth; therefore let us lay a plot to deſtroy him. Accordingly they put it in action, and ruſhed into the chamber. As ſoon as Haufrey was entered, he thus began with Valentine, Diſloyal man, now ſhalt thou know the price of thy inconſtancy, by abuſing our ſiſter; then giving him at the ſame time, a mighty blow with his fiſt upon the face, that the blood run out of his mouth; Henry on the other hand, thought to have ſmitten him too with a glave to the ground, but Orſon perceiving they were in earneſt, leaped out, and gave Haufrey ſuch a ſtroke with his rough fiſt, that he felled him: after ran to Henry, and girded him ſo between his arms, that if the ladies had not been in preſence to have appeaſed his wrath, he had deſtroyed them both.

This cauſed an outcry through the whole court. Haufrey and Henry went to their father, making complaint againſt Valentine and the wild man. The king

king hearing their complaint was sorry, and gave orders, that Orson should be put into a strong tower, and not come abroad without leave; and then sent to Valentine, to know the true cause of this disorder: who, when he came before the king, and had related all the circumstances; Then, said the king, Orson has done nothing but right; and as for you Haufrey and Henry, I see you are full of malice against Valentine, therefore I charge you not to attempt any ill against him, for I vow, I would not lose him for the best baron in my land, for I have made many trials of his love and faithfulness towards me. And with this answer Haufrey and Henry straightway departed.

Not long after the coming of Valentine and Orson to court, Duke Savary sent messengers to king Pepin, which said unto him, Great king, our [illegible] hath sent us to you, requesting your aid against a false Pagan, called the Green knight, who hath besieged his confines, and intended to have his daughter by force of arms. The king promised the messenger, that he would agree to assist the duke: but scarce had he made this promise, when news came to court, of another messenger from Lyons, which brought advice, that the Almains were coming against him with a great army.

The king was very much troubled at this, and presently called his nobles, and [illegible] council, wherein it was resolved that [illegible] should forthwith march against the Almains, [illegible] well confess, deserves to be succoured; [illegible] two enemies let us chuse the less; therefore [illegible] first to defend our own country. [illegible] words the messenger from the Duke Savary departed, and carried these tidings with him, which made [illegible] the king

the duke very sorry to hear, because the green knight strongly oppressed him.

Now, gentle reader, I'll let you understand, this green knight was brother to Ferragus, the giant, that kept the lady Bellisant in his castle, who was mother to Valentine and Orson, as it is before declared.

Duke Savary having no hope of aid from King Pepin, made open proclamation through all his dominions, that all men should be ready armed against to-morrow, for he would then try his success against the green night. The day being come, both armies met, and the green knight behaved himself so valiantly, that at the first encounter he slew two knights. Duke Savary seeing him so valiant a general, came up to encounter him, without considering what was commonly said of him, which was, that he should never be vanquished of any, except one who had never sucked the breasts of a woman.

Let us now return to the two valiant leaders, who fought long and fiercely; but the duke ventured so far into the enemies hands, that when he thought to have retired, he could not, so was taken prisoner, and brought to the green knight, whose ransom could not be granted for any gold or treasure.

The green knight triumphed over the worthy duke, causing him to be brought to his pavilion, and reviled him in this manner; Duke now thou art my vassal, and I have power over thy life; either give me thy daughter Fezon to wife, or else I will take her by force; and except thou yield to my demand, I'll make thee finish thy days miserably, and consume all Aquitain to ashes. To which the duke replied, Proud Pagan, the Gods protect me from thy cruelty, for I would rather rely on their power than thine.

Says

Says the green knight, I am not affrighted to let you understand, that thy daughter's beauty hath enthralled me; and I will recall my threatened sentence, provided that you, within the space of six months, find out a champion that shall vanquish me in single combat; but if it happen that I prove conqueror, then shalt thou give me thy daughter to be my lawful wife. These conditions being agreed on, Duke Savary repaired to Aquitain; whither being come, he caused a proclamation to be made of those conditions concerning his said daughter, and the truce taken for six months: and messengers were sent into all countries, with the following advertisement; That if there were any man that dare encounter the green knight, for the love of fair Fezon, he should lay down his gage.

CHAP. XI.

How divers knights arrived at Aquitain, at the solemn just, to have away the love of the fair Fezon. How Hanfroy and Henry lay in ambush to take away the life of Valentine.

During this time of truce, King [illegible] had overthrown king Lamputries and the [illegible], and having ended that war, returned into [illegible], where he was told of Duke Savary's advertisement; whereat the king laughing, said, in the presence of his barons, Who is he amongst you that would have fair Fezon for his love, he must [illegible] from a combat with the green knight; [illegible] be overcome, the duke will not only [illegible] daughter, but one half of his possession.

All the knights viewed these letters, but no one would undertake the enterprize, save only Valentine,

time, who said to the king, Dear sovereign, If it please you to give me leave, I will encounter this green knight, and will undertake the task. I have a great desire to travel, for I long to take in hand some adventurous journey to find out my parents, and from whence I am descended. Valentine, said the king, I find thee long to go to Aquitain, I freely give thee leave, upon condition, that after thou hast tried thy manhood with the green knight, to return, if thou escape with life. But ere Valentine departed, fair Eglantine sent for him, and after making several protestations of her affection to him, told her, that being a poor foundling, was unworthy of the love of so noble a princess; but if he in his travels should find his birth answerable, she should be the only choice he would make. So leaving poor Eglantine full of grief, he departed with Orson for Aquitain.

Being on their way, Hauffrey and Henry consulted together, joining to their aid a third, how they might lay an ambush to set upon Valentine and Orson; the place appointed was a very large forest through which they must pass. Not long after the ambush was pitched, it chanced that Valentine came riding along, with Orson running by his side; who coming near the place where these men lay, forth steps their captain, named Grygar, accompanied with all his troop, thinking to have surprized Valentine: Now the traitor lent him such a blow, that the sword pierced quite through his armour, in so much as the blood followed the blow, and withal uttered these words, Valentine, either yield thyself captive, or receive thy death. Valentine, as a man amazed, drew his sword, and gave him that first encountered him such a blow on the head, that he clave him to the teeth; after that he betook him

to

towards the reſt, with ſuch violence, that at every ſtroak one fell before him. Orſon perceiving his brother thus to lay about him, began to rouſe himſelf, and with his piercing talons rept and tore all that came in his way. Valentine ſeeing Orſon thus beſtir himſelf, held up his bloody ſword, defending himſelf and offending his enemies that they all forſook him: but Grygar in a fierce manner aſſailed Valentine, and he being too forward, plunged himſelf into the throng. Being thus begirt with his enemies, he ſtill behaved himſelf ſo valiantly, that none durſt lay hands upon him; till at laſt they bound him and carried him away to a caſtle ſtanding in the midſt of the foreſt, kept by a notable thief, who was couſin-german to Grygar, and conveyed him to a dungeon, which grieved him to the heart, whilſt his enemies determine what ſhall be done to him; ſome were of the opinion to put him to death; but Grygar would not yield thereto, but kept him priſoner till Haufrey and Henry had received tidings of their proceedings. Orſon never reſted all that night, but made the beſt [illegible] way towards Paris, where he arrived the next day, as the king ſat at dinner, and ſuddenly caſting his eyes about, eſpied Orſon, whom when he ſaw, thought Valentine was not far off. Orſon ran through the hall, making a lamentable noiſe, looking very fierce upon every man he met; at laſt eſpying Grygar, run furiouſly at him, and gave him ſuch a [illegible] that he put out one of his eyes; and had he not been reſcued by a valiant prince, that ſat at table, he had never gone from that place alive.

Orſon, upon this, was brought before the king, who demanded to know the cauſe of this outrage. Orſon anſwered by ſigns, that Grygar had ſlain Valentine; and withal cloſed his fiſt, and put it

to his mouth in great rage, in token of defiance. King Pepin perceiving that the wild man challenged Grygar to fight him, imagined there might be ſome hidden treaſon; ſo taking the advice of his nobles, it was reſolved that Grygar ſhould accept the challenge: Grygar hearing what the king had determined, was very ſad, for he foreſaw that the treaſon would come to light, therefore he went to him, and thus ſaid, Mighty king, let me make one requeſt to your majeſty, that you would diſmiſs me from this dangerous taſk, becauſe the match is unequal, being not a man againſt a man, but a creature void of ſenſe. Grygar, ſays the king, if the truth be on your ſide, you need not fear, for you ſhall enter into the field well armed; again you ſhall be well mounted, he on foot; nor ſhall he bear any weapon: you ſay the right is on your ſide, therefore maintain it and ſhew your valour; for the ſentence of combat may not be recalled.

CHAP. XII.

How Orſon and Grygar fought, and Orſon gained the victory; Grygar confeſſeth the treaſon, for which he was hanged, and Valentine delivered from the dungeon.

THE place of combat being appointed, Orſon came, and at length Grygar, well mounted tho' he expected nothing but death. The king and his nobles being aſſembled, the judges were appointed, that no wrong ſhould be offered on either ſide: So Grygar being entered the liſts, began to draw near to Orſon, ſaying, Villain, thou haſt offered me great wrong in putting out one of mine eyes; but ere I part, I'll make thee acknowledge

that

that thou hast falsely accused me: But Orson threw him his malle, and gnashed his teeth, whereat Grygar set spurs to his horse, and ran with great force against him. Orson gave back, whereby Grygar was disappointed of his mark, and ran his spear fast in the earth; Orson taking this advantage, suddenly seized it, and having taken hold thereof, gave his enemy such a stroak, that he astonished him. Grygar set spurs to his horse, and rode like a mad man about the field: Orson ran after him, and caught his horse by the fore legs, and by main force threw them both to the ground; and with the fall Grygar lost his shield, which Orson seeing took it up, and put it on his own back; then he came to Grygar, and encountered him on foot, insomuch that he lent him such blows that he smote him to the earth, afterwards he leaped upon him, then at the next blow, he struck off one of his arms. Grygar having received all these wounds, cried out most pitifully and said, he would confess his treason.

Being brought before the king, he asked pardon for his offences; and in presence of all the [illegible] cts, told him, that Haufrey and Henry was the chief conspirators of the plot, and by their means he had taken Valentine, and put him in prison. After the king heard this tale, he commanded G[illegible] be hanged on the next tree, to the great jo[illegible] one, except the two brothers.

This being done, King Pepin, [illegible] of his nobles, goes towards the forest, [illegible] life of Valentine; Orson being with [illegible] them to the castle where he was impri[illegible] porter knowing the king, barred the gates; which when he perceived, commanded his [illegible] enter by force: having so done, they [illegible] dungeon where Valentine lay bound, and [illegible]

him to the king; who told him all that had happened, and how Orson had slain Gryger, and made him confess the treason.

So here we leave King Pepin and the rest, and look upon Valentine and Orson, who are taking their way to fight the green knight. After a long and tedious journey, they at length arrived at Aquitain, the people flocked from all parts to see the unmanly shape of Orson; but Valentine seeing them come so fast, made him a jacket of steel: When Orson had it on, he was much offended thereat, but he feared Valentine, and would do any thing he commanded. Valentine beheld the city of Aquitain very earnestly, at last he espied a fountain thither he went, and getting from his horse, lay down under a tree, (Orson was his keeper all the while) but was suddenly awakned by the trampling of a horse, and looking about him saw a proud knight, and withal so fierce and resolute, that he never asked leave of any man; yet if he met any man that did not salute him, he presently killed him: Valentine did not regard him, but Orson looked fiercely on him. The knight was enraged and drawing near upon Orson, gave him such a blow, that the blood run out of his mouth; which he perceiving, presently took the knight and threw him to the earth, and would there have ended his days, had not Valentine rescued him out of his hands, and thus said, Proud knight, why hast thou smitten a poor wild man, that has not the use of his tongue. Proud miscreant, replied the other, why didst thou not salute me? and withal drew forth a glave; Valentine seeing the blow, drew forth his sword, and struck the knight with such violence that he killed him on the spot. Duke Savary hearing thereof was greatly displeased, for he was his cousin, and immedi-

Immediately commanded that Valentine and Orson should be brought before him: so being come into the presence of the duke, he began in this manner: Friend, of whence are you? What prince do you serve? Sir, said Valentine, I am a knight, and owe my duty and service to the famous King Pepin of France, and hither I am come to combat with the green knight; as also to behold that beautiful Lady Fezon; wherefore I think it a law of equity, that strangers to pass in safety. When the duke heard Valentine say so, he said to him, Knight, right well hast thou answered me; and seeing my cause hath come by this, more by pride than courage, I am right sorrowful, and so I pardon thy deed. Go then to my palace salute my daughter, as my custom is to strangers, before they adventure their persons in battle with the green knight.

The duke went into the castle, accompanied with Valentine and Orson: Having entered the hall where the knights were assembled, Valentine beheld the Lady Fezon sitting among them; he saluted her thus: Dear lady, may it please you to understand, the mighty King Pepin of France, [illegible] hither, to present you the noblest [illegible] therefore Lady behold him; [illegible] knight is not able to withstand his force. To which the lady answered, I thank the noble king, and you for bringing him: but pray, why is this worthy champion no better clothed? To which Valentine related the whole story from the beginning to the ending, how he came [illegible] the wood. Fezon beheld him very [illegible] was in love with him. When Valentine [illegible] his speech, she presented him a ring, and [illegible] him success in the combat.

knights, Fezon still fixed her eyes on Orson, and he upon her; but in the midst of their feasting, the green knight, as his custom was, came thundering at the gates, to see the Lady Fezon, and crying out with a loud voice, Have you any more champions to fight me for the love of this lady? To which the duke said, I have now fifteen valiant knights: then said he, Let me see them. Then the green knight entered the hall, and fiercely beholding all the knights, at last said, Lords, eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow will be your last, for I will hang you on the top of my tree, as many before you have been served.

Orson understanding that this was the green knight, by whom so many valiant men had lost their lives, began to whet his teeth, and suddenly leaping from the table, took the green knight by the middle and cast him to the earth, so that he lay for some time as if he had been dead. Which action of Orson's caused much laughter among the knights there present, which so enraged the green knight, who was now recovered, that with threats he left the duke's palace, proceeding to hang Orson on a high gallows, and there his beastly corps should hang for a prey to the birds of the air.

CHAP. XIII.

How Orson encountered the green knight; also how Valentine attempted to fight him, but without success.

Orson perceiving the green knight [illegible] and to threaten him, threw [illegible] Valentine told him, it

green knight enraged hereat, swore by Mahom[illegible] that ere the morrow's sun was set, he would hang him on a tree higher than any of the rest; and with these words he left the duke's castle, and betook himself to his pavilion.

They passed the rest of the night in merriment, and so went to bed. Morning being come, they all went into the hall, where it was agreed, that Galeram, a worthy knight of France, should be the first that fought the green knight: who no sooner saw him approach, but he set spurs to his horse, and encountered the famous Galeram so fiercely, that he smote him to the earth, and after hanged him on a tree, as he had done many before. Orson perceiving this, made signs that he would fight him presently; Valentine, by signs, told him he would go and try his own strength first on him; and taking leave of the beauteous Lady Fezon, he mounted his horse, and took his way towards the east. When the green knight espied him, he was more fearful of him than the rest; wherefore he said, Sir Knight, hearken to me, on yonder tree there hangs a golden shield, in which remaineth such virtue, that until some knight can fetch it from thence, I can never be overcome: and further, I assure thee, except thou be the son of a king, and such an one as never sucked the breast of a woman, I can never be vanquished.

At these words, Valentine, with [illegible] spoke thus: Whosoever I am, I will [illegible] hence till I have fought you. Upon which the green knight mounted his horse [illegible] course with such exc[illegible] shivered in many

[illegible] the day began to fail us, and [illegible] grew weary; [illegible] the green knight, in a haughty manner, told Valentine, it was proper for them to give over the fight till to morrow; and go, says he, to Aquitain, and repose, that I esteem thee the most valiant knight that I ever encountred, but meet me in the morning, and then we will end the combat.

Valentine accepted this offer, and so returned to the city, where he was with joy received by Duke Stany, the Lady Fezon, and particularly by Orson, who ran and caught him in his arms. Being come into the palace, the duke demanded what tidings from the green knight; Sir, said Valentine, he resteth in his pavilion, and I think he is of that strength, that there is not a man living able to vanquish him. Valentine said the duke, you have escaped well, for never [illegible] any combat, wherein you have proved yourself a valiant knight. Having ended the conference with the duke, Valentine was unarmed and conducted to the chamber of the Lady Fezon.

[illegible] supper drew on, and the duke [illegible] at the table, caused Valentine [illegible] and his left hand, for the duke honoured [illegible] the highest degree; after supper Valentine [illegible] himself to his chamber, and the green [illegible] rested in his pavilion, where we will leave [illegible] and speak of Valentine, who being in his chamber [illegible] many complaints.

CHAP. XIV.

[illegible] Valentine [illegible] Orson [illegible] the morrow to fight the [illegible] knight, and how Orson overcame [illegible]

knight, concluded it more proper to put Orson into his armour, and send him on the morrow to try the combat; which when by signs he had let him know, he was exceedingly rejoiced, and denied taking Valentine's horse and armour, desiring only a club, such an one as he was accustomed to. Valentine seeing this, told him that he must put on the same armour, and ride on the same horse, for that the knight should not know but that it was Valentine that came against him; to which Orson agreed: But before he took horse, he went and took leave of the Lady Fezon, and so rode directly to the pavilion of the green knight, and smote the top thereof with his spear, in token of defiance. The green knight being moved at this rough salutation, swore by Mahomet, that he would settle his pride ere the evening; so mounting his steed, and couching his spear, ran the first course with [illegible] that both horse and men fell to the ground [illegible] having recovered themselves, drew [illegible] and laid one at another fiercely.

The green knight being [illegible] Orson such a blow, that he cut a piece [illegible] shield quite away, and wounded him [illegible] with the fierceness of the stroke [illegible] of his hand. Orson seeing the blood [illegible] the giant such a pat on his head, that he entered [illegible] flesh, and his sword sliding from his hand [illegible] his head so powerfully, that he [illegible] knees; but the green knight [illegible] with both which he [illegible] in an instant.

would have taken away his life, had not Valentine come at the very inſtance, and prevented him. You ſee, ſays Valentine, that you are in the hands of your enemy, wherefore I think fit that you ſuffer preſent death, and be hanged on the higheſt branch of yonder tree, except you agree to theſe conditions: That you renounce Paganiſm; go with me to France, and tell King Pepin, that by Valentine and Orſon you were overcome in ſingle combat. To all which he readily agreed.

Then Valentine made ſigns to Orſon to let him riſe. Being upon his feet; he requeſted Valentine to ſend him to the tree, and if he bring away the ſhield there faſtned, then I am aſſured he is the man that ſhould conquer me. Orſon accordingly did; which when the green knight ſaw, he threw himſelf at his feet, and would have kiſſed them. I am well aſſured, ſaid he, that you are the braveſt knight in the world; and moreover, you are ſon to both a king and queen, which will be more amply confirmed by the brazen head, now in the cuſtody of my ſiſter Clarimond, whom I offer you in marriage, as the moſt hardy knight in the world.

CHAP. XV.

How Valentine cauſed the green knight to be chriſtened; and how an angel appeared unto Valentine, and of the charge he gave him.

THE green knight having made this motion of the marriage of his ſiſter, gave unto Valentine a ring to carry unto her; which Valentine accepted, and never

man should [illegible] the [illegible] of Agamon, without [illegible] further damage.

Then Valentine and Orson took and led him as a prisoner into the city, which was no little joy to Duke Savary and his nobles. The green knight being brought to the duke, began to say [illegible] My Lords, you owe much honour unto the knight that hath conquered me, for he can be no less than for to a king. Truly, says the duke, he seems to be no less by his valour; wherefore I [illegible] it my part to honour him with my utmost endeavours. The duke commanded his daughter to his presence, and then said to her, Daughter, [illegible] here the green knight and his valiant [illegible] that Valentine hath brought from the court of King Pepin, who hath freed us from our fears; therefore my pleasure is, that he make a conquest of your love. To which the lady [illegible] My Lord, your pleasure is already [illegible] of my deliverance is come, therefore [illegible] as my lawful spouse. Then the duke [illegible] and had them married out of hand.

The day being past with great [illegible] and solemnity, the night approaching, and every one beseech him to rest; and in the dead time of the night, Valentine had the apparition of an angel appearing unto him, saying, Valentine, know that in the morning thou speedily depart the land with thee Orson, and without further [illegible] unto the castle of Ferragut, where you shall be entertained, by whom thou shalt [illegible] art defended.

[illegible] upon this vision, he [illegible] and in great readiness

long after the duke [illegible] knight, and the rest of the nobles, and [illegible] the green knight was baptized according to [illegible] promise, and Valentine received the ring to deliver to his sister, which he put on his finger. So having taken leave of the whole court, Orson and he took their way towards the castle of Ferragus, and the green knight for Hungary.

About this time Blandiman, squire to the distressed Lady Bellisant, was arrived at King Pepin's court.

CHAP. XVI.

How King Pepin came to know that Valentine and Orson were his nephews: and how the green knight submitted himself, according to his promise.

BLandiman having delivered his message, the [illegible] demanded where his sister was? My Lord, saith Blandiman, I'll relate to you the whole story. Your sister, who was unjustly banished, in [illegible] was delivered of two sons in the forest of [illegible] while she sent me for help, one of them was carried away by a bear into the wood, she knew not whither; she followed it so long, that at last I found her in a swoon upon the ground; but she coming to herself, told what had happened; so I hastned to the tree where I left her, but could not find the other child. And thus worthy king, I have told you the whole story. The king replied, What you have told me, Blandiman, fills me full of a thousand imaginations: this Valentine and Orson whom I had in my court, must be the [illegible] sister's sons, and I found [illegible] in the [illegible] I [illegible]

[illegible] conquered by him [illegible]

At these tidings the court was joyful, only Hamfrey and Henry, whose hatred was implacable against Valentine. But to keep up to the story, Blandamor hearing the king speak so particular of the children, took the liberty to ask the king, if he knew into what country they were gone? To whom the king made answer, that they took their way towards Aquitain, to fight a champion called the Green Knight, for the love of Lady Fezon, only daughter to duke Savary, prince of that country.

Soon after the green knight arrived at Paris. The king seeing him in armour marvelled thereat, and demanded the cause of his so appearing, who he was, and from whence he came? I am that Pagan knight, answered he, that for the love of the Lady Fezon, daughter to the duke of Aquitain, have for one whole year holden him in subjection; and at the same time conditioned with [illegible] that if he could find out a knight within the space of six months that could vanquish me in single combat, I would raise my siege, and depart out of his territories; but on the contrary, he should deliver me his daughter to be my lawful wife. At last allotted me two worthy knights, the one named Valentine, the other Orson. Valentine fought with me the whole day, but night coming on we were forced to give over, without putting an end to the combat; the next morning his fellow, Orson, armed in Valentine's armour, entred the field in a most fierce and [illegible] manner, against whom I addressed myself, [illegible] purpose, but in the end he overcame, and would have taken away my life, had not Valentine [illegible] me, and rescued me [illegible]

that I should renounce [illegible] and be baptized, and then surrender myself at your command, [illegible] to be dealt with as your majesty shall think proper.

The king having heard all this long story, made this answer: Welcome to us, live with us in our court, for I freely grant you your life; and promise you, that if you tarry with us in our country, I will endow thee with fair lands and possessions. The king shewing himself thus gracious, demanded of him where these knights were that had conquered him? Quoth the green knight, I left them both at Aquitain, with the valiant Duke Savary.

And thus, by the words of Blandiman and the green knight, the king came to the knowledge that Valentine and Orson were his nephews, and the sons of the emperor of Greece; the tidings of which he ordains to be proclaimed thro' the whole world, and resolved to take a journey himself to Constantinople to carry the particulars.

CHAP. XVII.

How King Pepin hastens to Greece to bear these tidings: and how he found Constantinople besieged by the soldan of Egypt.

KIng Pepin departed into Greece, and arrived at Rome, where the pope received him joyfully. But as he sat at dinner, news was brought that the soldan of Egypt had besieged Constantinople: whereupon he craved aid of the pope, who readily granted it. An army was immediately raised, and marched with King Pepin to Constantinople, where they found the city closely [illegible] the soldan's army: but when the emperor [illegible]

relief was come, he took courage. But the ſoldan with big words threatened them, not only to ſubdue Conſtantinople, but Rome itſelf. But King Pepin ſent letters to the emperor, to make a ſally when he gave the on-ſet.

The ſoldan put his men in order to diſcover the number of his enemies. The green knight, with the like intent, perceiving them coming by the ſide of the hill, addreſſing himſelf to the encounter, broke his lance againſt the foremoſt; then began a dreadful combat, and in the end he put them to flight. King Pepin, upon this, attacked the ſoldan's army with great fury; and Myllon Dauglar ſlew the king of Quile and three others.

This made the ſoldan and his men come up and furiouſly ſet upon Dauglar, and diſmounted him; had not the green knight reſcued him, he had been ſlain.

The green knight, and other champions, made a terrible ſlaughter, ſo that the Saracens began to fly; but the king of Sclavonia coming with fifty thouſand freſh men, renewed the battle, which continued bloody and doubtful: but King Pepin and the emperor, finding they were over numbered, thought fit to retire into the city; and there being begirt with a cloſe ſiege, endured great famine. Where we muſt leave them, to follow Valentine and Orſon, who for the love of Clerimond, and the ſake of finding out their parents, have adventured, as you have already heard.

CHAP. XVIII.

How Valentine and Orſon arrived at the caſtle where Clerimond was; and how the Green-head inform'd them of their parents.

After many days travels, at last Valentine and Orson lighted upon an island in which stood a castle covered with brass, that it drove Valentine into suspicion that this was it whereunto the green knight had directed him; and approaching it, he demanded who was the owner of that castle? Answer was returned, The fair lady Clerimond, sister to the giant Ferragus; and built by a Saracen, and amongst all other his excellent works had placed great rarities in one particular chamber of it.

Amongst many things, it was also told unto Valentine, That in the chamber stood an excellent pillar, on which stood a head of brass, made, by the art of necromancy, that gave answer to any thing that was demanded. Valentine hearing this strange relation, was persuaded that this was the castle wherein the green knight told him he should find his sister; so without delay, he and Orson rid up to the gates; where thinking to enter, they were resisted by ten sturdy knights that kept the gates.

When they saw Valentine and Orson offer to enter, they said unto them, Whatever ye be, withdraw yourselves back, for none enters here without the leave of a maiden, to whom we belong. Why, Quoth Valentine, go ask her, Whether it be her pleasure we enter or not. Hereupon, one of them went to Clerimond, and told her, there were two knights, that seem fierce and couragious, desiring to enter your castle. Descend, quoth she, while I go to a window, to take a view of them, and let the gates be surely kept. Then she looked out at the window, and said, What are you, that dare offer to enter my castle without leave? Lady, quoth Valentine, I would gladly speak with that head of brass, which [illegible] within the castle, and, as I [illegible]

ſtand, reſolves doubts. Knight, quoth ſhe, if you have any certain token, either from king Ferragus or the green knight, you may enter, not otherwiſe; or try your fortune, in ſingle combat, with the ſeneſchal of this place.

This choice choſe Valentine, rather than to bewray the ring which the green knight had given him to preſent to his ſiſter. The lady, ſeeing his reſolute hardineſs, fell in love with him, and preſently went into the chamber where the brazen head ſtood, and ſaid, What is that knight of courage, that would ſo gladly enter this caſtle? was anſwered, She ſhould not know until the knight was preſent. Clerimond, at this anſwer, ſeemed very ſorrowful, for ſhe was greatly in love with Valentine.

CHAP. XIX.

How Valentine diſcovers Clerimond's love: how he fights with the ſeneſchal, and overcomes, and enters the caſtle by force.

CLerimond, hereupon, ſent for the ſeneſchal, and told him, that this knight would enter the caſtle by force. The ſeneſchal ſaid, that if he be ſo hardy to attempt it, I ſhall quickly make him repent it.

So mounting his horſe, he iſſued out of the gate, and the lady got into the window to ſee the combat, which was very fierce and doubtful, after three careers, in which Valentine had the better every time, he threw both horſe and man to the earth. The ſeneſchal, finding himſelf in danger, ſaid to Valentine, Knight, I know not from whence you are, but never in my life, found I a man of

valour; and withal I give thee leave to enter this castle; but upon this condition, that you speak not unto the lady Clerimond. Quoth Valentine, I will not depart hence till I have spoken with her and the brazen head. The lady all this while standing at the windows, at last said to to one of her maids, See how undiscreet this seneschal is, to fight with such a valiant knight who long since might have taken away his life. When Valentine saw the pride of the seneschal, and that he stood out with him, being his prisoner, he presently run another course, and gave him so deadly a stroke, that he ran him through the body, and tumbled him from his horse to the ground: at which the lady Clerimond was exceeding joyful, and commanded them to set open the gates, and Valentine to be brought up to her, to whom she thus said, Sir Knigh, you are welcome, for I never saw a more valiant and couragious man enter my castle, for it appears by your valour, that you are descended from some ro al blood.

Fair lady, replies Valentine, neither myself nor my companion ever knew of what extraction we were; he was nourished by a beast in the forest, and lived there like a wild m n, till I conquered him by m[illegible] Wherefore, lady, thus far have I travel-l[illegible] knowledge of my parents, but chiefly to g[illegible] love of you, being so fair a lady.

CHAP. XX.

How Valentine shewed Clerimond the green knight's ring which he gave him: and how he questioned with the brazen head concerning his descent.

VAlentine having purchased his entrance, at last shewed the ring that the green k[illegible] had

had given him: Upon which Clerimond told him, That he need not have endangered himself so much to get access into the castle, had he shewed it at first.

When dinner was ended, she took him by the hand and led him into the chamber where the brazen head stood. Being come to the door, they found it guarded on one side by a grim ugly shaped villain with a club of iron on his neck, and on the other side stood a monstrous lion. Valentine perceiving them to make a resistance, demanded of Clerimond the meaning; who said, these two are to keep the door, that none may enter without my knowledge.

Lady, says Valentine, I mean to try my fortune with the lion; and by main strength caught him about the body, whereat the lion forsook him. Orson too assailed the villain, and ere he could lift up his club, he took him by the middle so [illegible] that he threw him against the wall, took [illegible] club, and gave him such a blow, that he [illegible] him on the ground, and had it not been [illegible] lady Clerimond, he had slain him on the spot. Having thus both vanquished, they entered the chamber; wherein they might see rubies, diamonds, and a multitude of precious stones: Within four pillars of jasper stood the brazen head; Valentine fixed his eyes chiefly on the brazen head; at length when all was silent, it began to speak in this manner.

Thou famous knight of royal parentage, are called Valentine the valiant, of whom it may be truly said, there was never the like came before me. Thou art he who only deserve the lady Clerimond, thou art son to the emperor of Greece, and thy mother's name is Bellisant, sister to king Pepin of France, who by wrong suggestions was banished

her country, and husband's bed. Know this, thy mother is in Portugal, in the castle of Ferragus, who hath kept her these twenty years. King Pepin of France is thy uncle, and the wild man who accompanied thee, is thy brother: you two were delivered by the empress Beliſant, in the forest of Orleans: and being brought forth, thy companion was taken away by a ravenous bear, who nourished him in the wood among her whelps. For thy part, thou wast found the same day by King Pepin, who has nouriſhed thee ever ſince. Moreover, thy brother ſhall never have the uſe of his tongue, till, a thread be cut under the ſame.

Valentine, marking well what the head had declared, fell upon the boſom of his brother Orſon, and they embraced each other; and alſo told the Lady, he would marry her on condition ſhe would renounce Mahometiſm, as her brother the green knight had. To which ſhe anſwered, ſhe would be obedient in every reſpect, during her life, to his will.

Upon theſe things the joy of the inhabitants was very great: but all their gladneſs was ſuddenly eclipſed by the treachery of her brother Ferragus, as hereafter ſhall be ſhown.

CHAP. XXI.

How Paculet the enchanter informed giant Ferragus of all that paſſed between Valentine and his ſiſter.

NOW you ſhall underſtand, that within this caſtle where Clerimond was, dwelt a dwarf whom ſhe had brought up from a child, named Paculet, being of more wit than ſtature, and who had by ſtudy, got a great inſight into necromancy: by

which

which art he composed a little horse of wood, in the head of which he had so artificially fixed a pin, that every time he mounted him he would turn the pin towards the place he would go to, and saddle him, he would be there without danger. This Pacolet, observing what had passed in the castle, stole his horse and came to Portugal, and related the story to Ferragus. Which when Ferragus heard, he was exceeding angry, both against his sister and Valentine; against her for marrying a Christian knight, and against him for taking her to wife, swearing by the gods to take revenge on them both.

But all this he dissembled to Pacolet, bidding him bear this message to Clerimond, that Valentine, who shall have her to wife, is right welcome, and it shall not be long ere I will come with my nobles, and then shall their nuptials be royally solemnized. So Pacolet mounted his horse, and was in an instant in the presence of his lady, and told her what he had done, and what her brother said. At this the lady stood amazed, but at last answered him thus: I am angry thou didst not tell me of thy departure, for thou shouldst have enquired for a Christian woman, one that has had her abiding in my brother's castle.

CHAP. XXII.

How Pacolet made a journey into Portugal, to see the lady Bellisant, Valentine's mother.

THE lady having ended her tale, Pacolet said, Lady, I shall for your sake make another journey into Portugal, and before to-morrow night bring you tidings, whether she be there or no. At this Valentine much wondered, till the lady told him

him, he could do it by his art. Then he called Orſon to him, and cut the thread under his tongue; which being done he ſpake preſently, and related the ſtory of his life. Pacolet according to his promiſe performed his journey, and brought Valentine word, how he had ſeen his mother in good health, which made him exceeding glad.

But theſe joys laſted not long; for ſoon after arrived Ferragus at the caſtle of Clerimond; and though at firſt he diſſembled his treachery, and deſired to be baptized, as his brother the green knight had been, he ſtill had a ſecret miſchief in his heart.

Valentine believing what he had ſpoken to him, ſaid, It is reported to me, that within your caſtle, for the ſpace of twenty years, you have maintained a Chriſtian woman, who is mother unto me, whom I would gladly ſee; her name is Belliſant, ſiſter to King Pepin of France, and wife to the emperor of Greece. By Mahomet, ſaid Ferragus, you ſay true, and you ſhall go along with me into Portugal, ſo ſhall you be informed, whether ſhe be the lady you ſeek after or no. Gramarcy, quoth Valentine; and ſo Ferragus left him, and ſaid to Clerimond, Siſter, I deſire your advancement more than any thing on earth, and am glad of ſo worthy and valiant a knight for your eſpouſal: wherefore, to knit up all at once, my deſire is, that you would go with me into Portugal, and there with the conſent and applauſe of all my nobles, we intend highly to ſolemnize your nuptial day.

CHAP.

CHAP. XXIII.

How Valentine and Orſon were betrayed by Ferragus, and committed to priſon.

SOon after this they all embarked; but Ferragus fell from all his former words of comfort, and began to plot the death of Valentine and Orſon. In the dead time of the night he cauſed them to be bound in chains. Now when Clerimond ſaw what was done to her love, ſhe fell into extreme agony, that with very ſorrow ſhe would have ſlain herſelf, or elſe violently leaped over-board into the ſea.

Ferragus ſeeing her in this fit, gave command, that ſhe ſhould be attended by ſome of his barons; and that ſhe ſhould not ſo much as ſpeak to the priſoners. Thus were their joys ſuddenly blaſted; and all this while they were on their way towards Portugal, and ſhortly after arrived at the caſtle of Ferragus.

They were no ſooner arrived, but news was brought to Belliſant, that two Chriſtian knights were brought priſoners to the caſtle. She had a great deſire to ſee them, but Ferragus oppoſed it, and commanded the Jailor to commit them to a dungeon, to be kept with bread and water, and to be laſhed twice a day, except they renounce their religion.

After Ferragus had committed them, he went into the palace, and called for his ſiſter Clerimond, and reproved her ſharply for lamenting the knights that had been the overthrow of her brother the green knight, and who were of a faith contrary to hers: But this only ſerved to encreaſe her ſorrow; which being obſerved by Belliſant to be immode-

rate,

rate, she asked the reason: when she told her, That the two knights prisoners, were her children; and how Ferragus betrayed them, under the pretence of renouncing his faith.

CHAP. XXIV.

How Pacolet comforted the two ladies.

WHilst the two ladies were bewailing their hard fate, Pacolet entered; to whom Clerimond said, What have I done to thee, that thou shouldst deprive me of all my joy. Lady, quoth Pacolet, be not displeased at me, for I am ignorant of all that has befallen you; I here vow all my service to you and Valentine, while life doth last.

Friend, quoth Bellisant, if you can but free my two children, I will recompense thy labour. Lady, quoth Pacolet, take no more care, for ere long you will perceive my crafty work take effect by my art, that you shall have cause to remember me while you have a day to live.

CHAP. XXV.

How Pacolet released Valentine and Orson out of prison, with their mother and fair Clerimond.

FErragus made a great feast among his nobles, they passed the day in such revelling and mirth, that the night growing late, they betook themselves to rest. Pacolet was still upon the watch to perform his promise; and coming to the door of the dungeon where the lady's two sons lay bound, as soon as he touched the door, the locks broke and flew open. The two princes, hearing the door o-

pen,

Lady Teron, who did not know him to be Orson, because of his speech. Of these passages Orson, at convenient times would acquaint Valentine, Clarimond, and his mother Bellisant, who were greatly rejoiced therewith; but this joy was interrupted by Ferragus's proclaiming war against the duke of Aquitain.

Ferragus soon after arrived with a great army, and duke Savary prepared to receive him, and raise the siege with all his armed men, amongst whom were Valentine, Orson and Pacolet, unknown to the duke.

CHAP. XXVIII.

How the Duke was taken prisoner in the battle; and how, by the help of Pacolet, Orson sets him free.

DUke Savary began the battle with great fierceness next morning, which proved very bloody: in which adventuring too far, he was surrounded by Ferragus's men which struck such amazement on the Christians, that they would have forsaken the field, till Valentine and Orson seeing them ready to waver, came up to them with all speed, and cried to them, Shew yourselves men; run not away in time of extremity.

These two knights having thus done, the people began to gather up their hearts and begin the fight anew. Valentine was in the thickest, hewing forth his way with his sword; Orson on the other hand, was not idle, who had rescued the duke from captivity, or learn his [illegible] among the rest. Pacolet the magician [illegible] his assistance; upon which he [illegible] his horse, and rode violently through [illegible]

the battle, and being paſt danger, threw away his own ſhield, and hung about his neck the ſhield of a Saracen, paſſed thro' the thickeſt without oppoſition, and came to the pavilion where the duke was priſoner; (but Pacolet perceiving the guards to be numerous, by his art he caſt them into a deep ſleep) and approaching the duke, Orſon ſaid, Mount this horſe, I come to free thee from Ferragus, if thou doubt what I am, I am the knight which in your hall demanded wages of you. Knight, quoth the duke, for this ſervice I will give you my daughter Fezon in marriage; Indeed I have given her to a knight, but he was wild and ſavage, and had not the uſe of his tongue; but by his long abſence, I fear he has won ſome other lady. This ſaid, they all three took their way thro' the enemies camp.

Valentine all this while was demanding what was become of his brother Orſon; but found none could give any tidings of him; and ruſhing thro' the thickeſt of the fight, at length loſt his horſe: Ferragus ſeeing him ſo valiant a knight, ſeized on him as priſoner, bound him hand and foot, and ſo carried him to his pavilion. Orſon, Pacolet, and the duke returning, ſet upon him, Orſon crying out, Let him not eſcape us; and therewithal put ſpurs to his horſe, and ran ſo fiercely againſt Ferragus, that both he and Valentine fell to the earth, and by his means was releaſed, and mounted on a freſh horſe, and ſo returned to their friends.

When the Chriſtians ſaw the duke at liberty, with joyful hearts they cried out aloud, *Long live the duke of Aquitain*: which made the Saracens raiſe the ſiege and fly.

The battle being thus ended, Valentine and Pacolet returned to their lodgings, but Orſon went along with the duke into his palace. Being come

he

he called his nobles, and thus ſaid: I give you to underſtand, that above all men living I am the moſt beholden to this knight, both for my life and liberty, And as for you, Daughter, I would have you accept of Gregory (for ſo Orſon called himſelf) for your huſband; to which the nobles willingly agreed. Orſon hearing this, ſtill concealed himſelf till he had further tried the conſtancy of the Lady Fezon.

CHAP. XXIX.

How Orſon tries the conſtancy of Fezon, and then marries her.

ORſon told the duke that he would endeavour to gain the Lady Fezon's love; and ſo going to the chamber where ſhe was, he took her by the hand, and ſaid, Lady, your beauty hath ſo engaged my heart, that without your love I am an unfortunate man. Knight, ſaid ſhe, all your labour is loſt, for I am promiſed to the wild knight that killed the green knight; which though it pleaſed him, as being Orſon, yet he ſeemed much againſt it, and uſed many perſuaſions to the contrary.

But finding his perſuaſions had no effect, was very joyful; and going to the duke, told him, that his daughter had given him an utter denial, and was reſolved to marry none but he that conquered the green knight; but the duke ſaid, he would force her to marry him. So Orſon returned to Valentine and went to Valentine; to whom he related the whole proceedings.

So the next day Valentine and Orſon went to court and Orſon put on the jacket in which he fir

entered into Aquitain. Orſon ſaluted the duke, and then addreſſed himſelf to the Lady Pezon, who received him with a ſmiling countenance.

Then Orſon told the duke and his nobles all their adventures, and what the brazen head had related to them. I am glad to hear, quoth the duke, that your deſcent is of royal blood: And forthwith he married his daughter to Orſon. Valentine prepared to depart for Conſtantinople, but before he went, the marriage of Orſon was celebrated, in the preſence of the empreſs Belliſant and the Lady Clerimond, to the ſatisfaction of the whole court.

And in this aſſembly was a ſpy from Ferragus, who informed him of all that was acted; upon which he vowed revenge to them all, but eſpecially on Pacolet, for freeing his ſiſter Clerimond and the two Chriſtian knights.

CHAP. XXX.

How Ferragus was reinforced by the aid of King Tompart and Adrimain the enchanter.

Ferragus hoping to revenge himſelf, ſent a meſſenger to King Tompart, of whom he deſired aid againſt his enemies, and to bring along with him the enchanter Adrimain. In the mean while, Valentine took his leave of all his friends, and recommended Clerimond to the care of the duke, for whom his heart bled to part with. Clerimond was as loth to part with him; ſhe claſped him in her arms, but was not able to ſpeak, nor would ſhe admit of any comfort, tho' he promiſed to return ſpeedily.

CHAP. XXXI.

The empress's doleful tale at the departure of Valentine to Constantinople.

ALas, my son! now will it come to light that I have been falsly banished my husband's bed; you commend me to the emperor, and also to my brother King Pepin, and say unto them in my behalf, that I am an innocent lady; and if there be such a man breathing that will speak to the contrary, fight him for me, and justly maintain my unspotted chastity. Mother, said he, all this I shall perform; and I will send Pacolet to bring you tidings of all that shall happen.

Now Pacolet and Valentine mounted the wooden horse, and ere the next day at none they were in sight of Constantinople, and came that night to the great hall, where the emperor and King Pepin sat both at supper. The green knight sitting at the table, arose and said, Great emperor! behold your renowned knight Valentine, and your natural son. Upon which they arose from the table and embraced him, but chiefly King Pepin, and the emperor his father, who was greatly affirmed of having banished his unspotted and guiltless wife.

Exceeding joy was heard round about the city, and people came from all parts to see the emperor's son. Valentine, in the presence of his father and all his nobles, challenged any one who durst impeach his mother of disloyalty.

CHAP. XXXII.

How Valentine and the green knight were taken prisoners at the battle of Constantinople, by the Sultan Moradin.

WHen the emperor perceived his ſon to be moved for the diſhonour done to his mother, he ſaid thus: My ſon, thou canſt not now revenge thyſelf on the author of thy mother's wrong, that being already performed by a merchant, in the preſence of King Pepin thy uncle, and myſelf: at his death he confeſſed the whole treaſon; and ſince that time I have ſent meſſengers into all nations in ſearch of her. Valentine replied, Yeſterday I both ſaw and ſpoke with her in Aquitain: telling him beſides, that Pacolet brought him thither by his art.

The emperor, hearing ſuch good news, cauſed great triumphs thro' the city, the noiſe of which alarmed the Saracens, which made them more cloſly begirt it, famiſhing up all the inhabitants, moſt lamentable to behold. At laſt Valentine and the green knight arming themſelves, came unto the city, accompanied with two thouſand men, ſet upon the Saracens, and within ſhort time, they behaved themſelves ſo valiantly, that they gained from the enemy three hundred chariots of victuals: and the Soldan being vexed at this loſs, got between the city and them, thinking to have hindred their entrance, but King Pepin ſeeing that, ran upon the Soldan ſo vehemently, that he beat him to the earth, and with his ſword ſtruck Archillon (a valiant commander) out of his ſaddle; and Valentine hewed down the Soldan's chief ſtandard. Moraldus, one of the chief captains, was ſlain by the green knight, with other exploits performed on both ſides; but they purſued the enemy ſo far, that when they would return they could not and ſo were taken priſoners: and the Soldan ordered a high gibbet, deſigning to hang them thereon.

However, the valour of the hungry Chriſtians carried off the victuals, tho' with the loſs of many

a life. The emperor was exceeding heavy for the loss of his son and the green knight; so likewise was King Pepin; but Pacolet soon comforted them, telling them they should soon be at liberty, if it was in the power of his art; so betaking himself to his horse, he arrived at the soldan's camp, just as Valentine and the green knight were receiving sentence of death.

CHAP. XXXIII.

How Pacolet delivered Valentine and the green knight out of the bondage of the soldan.

BEing all assembled, the soldan, after hearing the opinions of his judges, it was concluded the knight should suffer death next morning; this done, the soldan went to supper in his pavilion; where being set, Pacolet came and saluted him in the name of Mahomet: Pacolet, says the soldan, thou art welcome; how fareth Ferragus my friend? Sir, quoth Pacolet, right well. Then Pacolet drew him aside, and said, Know, Sir, I am sent by Ferragus's fair wife who is in love with you, and desires that you would come with me on my horse, her husband being now in Aquitain. The soldan was glad at this news, feasted Pacolet very much, and prepared to go with him the next morning. Valentine and the green knight were right glad they had gotten a sight of Pacolet, but durst not show it. Pacolet, on the other hand, the better to carry on his design, exclaimed much against Valentine and the green knight, and seemed wondrously obliging to the soldan, who ordered the knights to be hanged the next morning: and so withdrawing to his

chamber, left them under the conduct of these that desired their deaths.

In the dead time of the night, Pacolet having charmed their wardens, who slept so securely, that he brought them past all danger; which done, about the dawning of the day he came to the soldan's tent, and awaked him; which done, the soldan gave orders, that if any enquired for him, to say, He was gone a little way to sport with Pacolet. They mounted the wooden horse, which rose up into the air so swiftly, that in a little time they were at Constantinople, in the emperor's palace. The soldan perceiving the horse to make a stay, asked Pacolet, if they were at their journey's end: Yea, said he, we are now in Portugal, in the palace of Ferragus; enter you into the hall, and I'll bring the lady to you presently.

The soldan stayed in the hall, impatiently expecting Pacolet's return; while he, in the mean space, maketh towards the emperor's chamber, and told him, that he was just arrived from the soldan's host, having set at liberty both Valentine and the green knight, who were condemned to die. Besides, said he, I have brought along with me the soldan himself; wherefore you may now be revenged on him in full. The emperor and King Pepin immediately armed themselves, and came into the hall where the soldan sat, who perceiving he was betrayed, drew out his sword, and like a mad man ran up and down the hall, and defended himself so well, that he slew King Pepin's squire: this so enraged the king, that he gave him a blow, which felled him to the earth; being down they bound him. In the morning Valentine and the green knight returned, and were glad to find the soldan prisoner, who was soon hanged on the highest [illegible] of

of the palace, in sight of the pagan host, which very much amazed them till his uncle Bryan told them how he had been deceived by the tryar Pacolet. The pagans gathered themselves to council, and chose Bryan their soldan.

Soon after this Pacolet returned into Aquitain, to comfort the ladies Bellisant and Clerimond, as he had promised: and the next morning came to his journey's end. The empress was exceedingly rejoiced when he told her, that the emperor was sorry he had used her so ill, being guiltless, which the traiterous arch-priest confessed at his death: and he also told her, that the emperor intended to come in person, when the city was cleared of the Saracens, with his son Valentine and the green knight; which very much pleased her, especially that the accuser had suffered a shameful death.

CHAP. XXXIV.

How King Tompart came to Aquitain to succour Ferragus; and brought with him Abromain the enchanter, who betrays Pacolet.

PAcolet being arrived at Aquitain, at the same time King Tompart came thither to aid Ferragus against the Christians, at whose coming Ferragus thus salutes him: 'Great King, by your assistance I hope to regain my sister Clerimond. Ferragus, said the king, doubt nothing; I have brought Abromain the enchanter, whose skill shall counterpoise Pacolet's art. Thanks, gentle king; if he [illegible] into my hands, I'll reward him liberally, [illegible] Abromain, put your trust in me. Being provided with all things, he set forward towards Aquitain. Being come thither, Pacolet knew him; For [illegible] when

whence came you, said he, and what is your errand? You know, said Adrimain, that long I served king Tompart, yet by fate I am fallen into a great mischance, for one in the court beat me, because I would not teach him my art; upon which I drew out my knife and killed him, whereupon I fled to you for succour. Fear nothing, says Pacolet, you are safe.

As they were thus talking, Clerimond passed by, Adrimain asked what lady it was? That is, says Pacolet, the fair sister of Ferragus, who is shortly to be married to a valiant knight. Whilst the two magicians were thus in conference, comes Orson, and desired they would show some of their art to divert the assembly. Upon which Adrimain caused a stag to run thro' the palace, to the astonishment of the beholders; and Pacolet raised a hart, which run thro' the river, and after the hart ran hunters and hounds, which he made suddenly to vanish. Quoth Orson, this is very well performed; and so the company broke up.

Pacolet led Adrimain to his chamber; but this proved fatal, for about midnight he enchanted all within the castle, and among the rest Pacolet himself. Afterwards he got the wooden horse, and going to Clerimond, caused her to mount behind him; so turning the pin, they suddenly arrived at the tent of King Tompart. Being come, he called the king from his bed, telling him he had brought the fair lady Clerimond, whom he had stole from Aquitain, and along with her Pacolet's horse. But, says the king, art thou acquainted with this horse? Yes, long since, worthy king; and by virtue of the pin, I know how to govern him. Having made this known to Tompart, he thought to make experience himself; and taking Clerimond behind him, would

would carry her into his own country, and there marry her.

Adrimain was preſent all this while, and tells him That if he failed one jot of the true ſenſe of the horſe, that both he and the lady were in danger. Fear not that, quoth Tompart, ſo turning the pin, he flew ſwiftly into the air, and was two hundred miles on his journey before the lady awaked from her inchanted ſleep; who ſeeing herſelf deluded fell into a ſwoon, which ſo affrighted king Tompart, that turning the pin, he ſat the lady down by the ſide of a fountain, in order to comfort her. Being come to herſelf a little ſhe uttered theſe words: Unhappy am I above all creatures! for I have loſt my joys by curſed treaſon. Alas! Valentine my love, curſed be he that ſeparated us! Lady, ſaid Tompart, leave off theſe fooliſh words: Is it not better for thee to be my wife, who am lord of this juriſdiction, than to have a beggarly ſtart up, that hath neither land nor living? And at this he offered to kiſs her, but ſhe hit him on the mouth with her fiſt. Tompart being inraged at this uſage caught her up, and ſet her on the horſe again, thinking to go directly to his own palace, but turning the pin the contrary way, unexpectedly ſet her down at a large town in India. Clerimond by this time knew the horſe to be Pacolet's, and began to renew her lamentations; but Tompart reprimanded her thinking he had been in his own country. But this fell out ill for him, for the news being brought to the king of India, he cauſed Tompart to be [illegible] before him, and ordered his head to be cut off [illegible] with, in revenge for the death of his brother, whom Tompart formerly had ſlain. After this the lady was led to the king's palace, and entertained with all manner of ſplendor and magnificence. Where

we leave her a while, and return to Pacolet, and look back to Aquitain, and see the lamentations made for the loss of the Lady Clerimond.

When Pacolet found he was betrayed by Adrimain, and that the lady Clerimond and his horse were both gone, he fell into such a passion, insomuch, as had not Orson come in, he would have killed himself; but at length coming to himself, he resolved to be revenged on the traitor Adrimain: so taking the habit of a fair maid, took his way to the host of Ferragus. Being come amongst the army, many Pagans prayed for her love, but he excused himself, saying, He was engaged to the enchanter Adrimain; and so they let him pass. At last, Pacolet got to the tent where Adrimain was, at which he stood amazed, and was deeply in love.

Pacolet enquired, what was become of King Tompart; when Adrimain told him, he was gone into his own country, and carried along with him the lady Clerimond upon a horse of wood. Pacolet, hearing this, was vexed to the heart.

By this time Adrimain came to his tent; and putting off his cloaths, goes to bed; where Pacolet so inchanted him that he fell into a deep sleep; and as he had dealt with him, so he did to all round about him. Then he put off his woman's attire, and clad himself in Adriman's richest cloaths, and took his sword and cut off his head. From thence he took his way towards the tent of Ferragus, where he made him leap out of bed, and tying him to his saddle, he led him to the entrance of the city of A-

When Pacolet entered the gates, the duke asked what was become of Clerimond? Have but a little patience, says Pacolet, and I will relate to you the whole matter. I am fully revenged, said he, on

Adrianain, for here I have brought his head; and here is Ferragus himself; I have also inchanted the whole host of Ferragus into a deep sleep: therefore, if ever you mean to have a complete victory, go now.

After the greatest part of the Saracen's army was destroyed, and the town relieved, the duke commanded Ferragus to be brought before him, and offered, if he would renounce Paganism, he should be spared. No, said Ferragus, I had rather suffer a thousand deaths. So he was suddenly beheaded.

Soon after his death, Orson took leave of the duke, and went to Constantinople, which was then closely besieged by the Saracens; but before his departure, the duke said, he would accompany him, and the empress his mother. So taking some small time to set things in readiness, they betook themselves to their journey. But by the way, the empress lamented the hard usage of her lord. Orson, pitying her, said, Mother, leave of your tears, and only joy that you are falsely accused. Now must our entrance into the city, and now they began to approach near their journey's end, when Pacolet found means to convey them into the city, which was at that time in great distress for want of provisions. Valentine, with the green knight, accompanied with a worthy band of soldiers, issued out of the city, and set upon two hundred [illegible] loaden with provisions. Having got their [illegible] these were returning to the city, but were [illegible] with the Pagan's army; and after a [illegible] were both made prisoners, and led before the [illegible] who adjudged them to death. But in the mean time, Pacolet came and stood before the judgment-seat, and pretended himself a messenger from the king of Argiers, come to bring him an account,

that he was coming with a mighty army to his assistance, and to desire him, if he had any Christian prisoners, he would send them to him. By which means he put a stop to the sentence for that time, and Valentine and the green knight were carried back to prison.

In the dead time of the night, Pacolet went and unbound them, and gave them a distinct account of all the proceedings at Aquitain. When they came together, by Pacolet's advice, they resolved to fall upon the enemy. Whilst they were in these consultations, the duke of Aquitain put the army in order of battle, whilst those from the city prepared to do the like on their part.

Early the next morning the battle was joined, when through the courage of their leaders, they gained an entire victory, and put most of the Turks to the sword. When the battle was ended, the emperor with tears embraced Valentine, asking a thousand pardons for all the hardships he underwent upon his account. Great was the joy on all sides; and when all those [illegible] Valentine asked after his Eglantine, and was told by the mother, that she was stolen from Aquitain by the enchanter Adriazan, and given to King Tolerus. Valentine, hearing this, looked [illegible] upon Pacolet; but Pacolet intreated him to be patient, for the same enchanter hath [illegible] slain his horse; but I am revenged on him by cutting off his head. Valentine understanding that [illegible] dumb, and that every one was in process, grew [illegible] bitter passions for his loss.

CHAP. XXXV.

How King Pepin departed from Troyes, and [illegible] Virgin accompanied him. How Carlier [illegible]

knife into the king's bed, and accused Orson of treason; and how Orson claimed combat against him, which was granted. How Valentine, in seeking Clarimond, arrived at Antioch, where he slew a dragon, and caused the king and all his land to be baptized. And how the king was put to death by Brandiffer.

THese wars thus ended, King Pepin took leave of the emperor, and returned into France; Orson would needs attend him, the king was content; promising, in case his son Charles should decease before him, he would make him king of France. So they went on their way towards Paris.

But Valentine could not rest, for he had lost his love; wherefore he consulted Pacolet what was best to be done: whereupon they agreed to go in search of her; and taking ship, they left that country. Now we will leave them, and speak of King Pepin and Orson, who by this time arrived at Paris, and were honourably received, but above all the valiant Orson was highly esteemed. This greatness of Orson so fretted Haufrey and Henry, that they plotted how to take away his life. And thus they consulted Garnier and Florent, promising them, if they would murder the king, that they would take possession of the realm, and raise them to great honour: moreover, such a deed being done, would surely be laid to Orson's charge, for he only was the guard of the king's person. Garnier, upon their promises consented, and told Haufrey and Henry, he would that night put it in execution. So after supper, he got a knife, and secretly entered the king's chamber, and hid himself behind the hangings; and being come to the bed-side, ready to lift up his arm to give the fatal stroke, he thought

the king was awake, ſo only left the knife in the bed, and ſoftly conveyed himſelf from thence. And the next day, the king being at dinner, when Garnier ſaw his time he came before him, ſaying; Worthy king, I come to open to you a treaſon which lately I chanced to hear, and to the end you may take care of your perſon.

Garnier deſired that Orſon might be ſeized firſt, for he was the principal traitor, the number are four; Orſon was the man ſhould kill you in your bed with a knife, which is hid in your bed; and if your majeſty pleaſes to go and ſee, you will find it.

The king hearing theſe words, ſaid to Orſon, Falſe and diſloyal man, can ſuch a thought enter into thy breaſt, as to take away my life? Quoth Orſon, Be not ſo lightly carried away to believe this accuſation for I proteſt, I am clear of any ſuch thought. But however the king went himſelf into the chamber with two others, where they found the knife. With that a valiant knight, named Simon, came to Orſon, and ſaid, Sir, fly and ſave your life, for the king has found the knife in his bed. Orſon ſaid, I fear nothing, for I am innocent. The king entered the hall, and aſſembling his peers, proceeded to judgment. Orſon required only the cuſtom of the country, which is to crave a combat with his enemy. At laſt, it was adjudged that Orſon's demand was reaſonable. Whereupon it was reſolved, that Garnier and Florent ſhould accept Orſon's challenge; ſo a month was aſſigned for the combat.

The time being come, Orſon, with his [illegible] and his friends, entered the field, and ſoon after [illegible] his adverſaries, Garnier and Florent. Orſon couched his ſpear, and putting ſpurs to his horſe, [illegible] upon them with fury, and ſent Garnier ſuch a [illegible]

that he run through both shield and armour. Florent, on the other side, gave Orson a blow, that he thought he had struck against a tower. False and accursed traitor, quoth Orson, thou hast wrongfully accused me; ere this day pass, I shall send thee where loyalty doth rest; and with these words, he with his sword smote Garnier out of his saddle, and withal pulled off his helmet, and cut off his head; and went against Florent, and caught him in his arms, and threw him on the ground, and said, Traitor, confess the treason, or I will send thee instantly after thy false brother. Whereupon Hanfrey said, Nephew, confess the fact, and we will procure thy pardon of the king. Lord, said Florent, I did put the knife into the king's bed. In speaking these words, Hanfrey drew out his sword, and run him through; and then turning to Orson, said, Cousin, I am glad you have proved yourself innocent; and so prevented Florent from discovering his treason.

Orson being innocent, much rejoiced King Pepin and the whole court. Hanfrey and Henry spoke well of him, but in their hearts imagined mischief, which after came to light, and they had their desert. Where we leave them, and return to Valentine, who with Pacolet, was travelling in search of the fair Clermond; at length arrived at Orleans, where they took up their lodging in an inn, the host of which went to the king, and told him that there were some Christians at his house, who had entered the land without paying tribute. Presently the king sent for Valentine, and said, Christian, I let thee understand, that there is a dreadful dragon, the which thou must fight, or else suffer death. Quoth Valentine, if you would but grant me one request, which is, that if I slay the dragon, you will

change your religion, and become a Christian; to which the king agreed. Then Valentine caused a shield to be made, with iron pikes fastened on it; so mounting his horse, issued out of the city. He being gone, every one got into their windows to see the fight.

Now by this time is Valentine within sight of the dragon, who seeing one come towards her, cast out of her mouth smoke like fire; he descended from his horse, thinking to have smitten her, but she lifted up her paw to smite Valentine; who subtilly watching his opportunity, lifted up his pole-ax and smote off one of her wings; at which feeling the pain, she gave such a roar, that echoed through the adjacent valies. The battle was most violent between them, but at last Valentine still pursues his blows, and ran his ax so far in her throat, that she fell down dead, and afterwards he cut off her head. Having so done, he returned to the city, where he was joyfully received by the people, but particularly by the king and his wife Rosamond, whom he soon after converted to the Christian religion, to the great displeasure of the giant Brandiffer, who was the queen's father, and who thereupon came against Antioch, with an army of an hundred thousand Pagans, and besieging the city, at last obtained it, and took the king prisoner, and suddenly put him to death, and crowned himself king of Antioch.

This done, he returned to his realm, but as he was on the seas, meeting with a tempest, was forced to Greece, into a city called Cretophe, where the emperor and the green knight, with some other company rid forth to sport themselves, and fell into the hands of Brandiffer's soldiers, who took them prisoners. The men of Cretope sent letters to the Empress Bellisant of what happened, who

ready seat for all her enemies and warlike men, under the command of Orson, to the relief of her husband the emperor. But Brandifer had fled abroad to give notice of all that happened, and fearing the force of the Greeks, and their prowess also, they take to the sea-side, so took shipping, and in a short time arrived in his own dominions; where he caused the emperor and the green knight to be confined in a cave among some other Christians, which had been there a long time. Where we'll leave them, and shall shew you somewhat of the Lady Clermond, who remains in India.

CHAP. XXXVI.

How Clermond feigns herself mad to avoid a marriage with the king of India: How Valentine defies Brandifer, and is feast by King Lucar, with King Pepin.

YOU heard already of King Tompart's death, and Clermond's time expired, she was now put to her shifts, to save her maidenhead from the Indian king; to which purpose she feigned herself mad, and she acted the matter so well, that all her attendance took her really to be so, for none would come near her. The king lamented her exceedingly, and many ways were used to recover her, but all in vain; so we leave her in her chamber and return to Valentine, who with Pacolet was come to King Tompart's dominions, to enquire after his beloved Clermond. When Valentine came to the chief city, he made diligent enquiry what was become of Tompart and the Lady Clermond; but of this he could get no other account, than that he

was

After Valentine had delivered the [illegible]
letters to Lucar, King [illegible]
what answer he had from [illegible] by all the [illegible]
That he would never return without victory. [illegible]
next morning, with an army of two hundred thou-
sand Saracens, they began their march, and in a
few days came before the chief city of the Indian
king, himself getting up into a high tower, to spy
their rich pavilions. Then he called unto him a cer-
tain herald to know whose tents they were, and
being told that one of them was Rosamond's he
caused his army to issue out of the city upon his
enemies so suddenly, that before they were in rea-
diness to oppose him, he rode towards the lady's
pavilion, where Rosamond seeing him, gave [illegible]
of her company the slip, and ran violently into his
arms; but as they were making their exclu-
lentine, by the assistance of Pacolet, [illegible]
her, and carried her to King Lucar. Valentine
great praise for bringing back the lady, and
outwardly shewed him a fair countenance, [illegible]
could find a fit opportunity to do him a [illegible]
Sometime afterwards she rode forth, pretending to
take the air, of which the [illegible] gave the king of India
notice: hereupon he issued out of the postern, and
took her horse by the head, and led her into the ci-
ty, to the great grief of King Lucar her husband.

Soon after things were brought to Brandiffer,
that King Pepin and the emperor of Greece were
entered his land, and were now upon the siege of
Angery. Brandiffer, amazed hereat, went to Lucar,
and said, It was now high time to look after his
own dominions; and therefore advised him to send
to the Indian king, to demand his wife, and he
would forget the death of his father, and raise the
siege. To which the Indian king replied, That he

own country, who was met by Rodomond, who was frighted at the sight of her father; is there peace for me? No, no, quoth the king, Mahomet hath delivered him into my hands, and saved me from death. Now the charm being at end, Brandiffer awakened and began to cry, What devil brought me hither? Nay, says the other, it was no devil it was Mahomet that brought you, for the sake of prince, and I mean to keep you. In the morning, when Lucar found the prisoners were escaped, and had taken Brandiffer with them, he left his pursuit, and caused the guards to be drawn along the streets at horses tails, and afterwards hanged. Meanwhile Valentine and Pacolet leaving the Pagans, and proceeded in their search after the Lady Clarinda, [illegible] have heard how King Pepin made known the foul deceit of the treason of Hardfroy and Berard, who in the absence of their father in the Holy Land with Orson, contrived a plot to deliver them into the hands of the Pagans. While this unnatural conspiracy was hatching, the Caliph of Babylon being come to the aid of Brandiffer, Lucar treated a truce for a month between them and the king of India. Whilst things were in this posture, Queen Heufrey to Brandiffer, offering to betray to him his father, and the twelve peers of France, if so be he would give him his daughter to wife; but Brandiffer, though a Pagan, thought the proposal so villainous, that detesting the matter, and sick with a love on his daughter Galaxy, to whom he gave her the account of his treachery, and then the emperor and the green knight set them in prison, and return to Valentine and Pacolet

CHAP.

CHAP. XXXVIII.

How Pacolet raised the devil, to enquire with him concerning a castle. How Brandifer was surprised by twelve peers of France, and ransomed Lunor from Pacolet.

After many days travel, Valentine and Pacolet arrived at the enchanted castle, kept by Clarezy, Brandifer's daughter, and being informed by a devil, that Pacolet had raised, that it was impregnable, they returned to Angery, where they were informed, that King Pepin, and the twelve peers of France were gone a pilgrimage to Jerusalem not long after their departure. But Brandifer, together with Lunor and the king of the Indies, were in search of King Pepin, and finding him with the peers at Jerusalem, by the assistance of the king of Jewry, seized them all. Wretched was the condition of these worthy men, they were all thrown into a miserable dungeon, except King Pepin, who being of a small stature, the Indian king retained him for his dwarf.

The Indian king being returned to his own court, was extremely delighted in the conversation of his dwarf, and used to employ him upon several occasions, and among the rest, sent him with a present of meat, from his own table to the Lady Clarezy. The king being so beautiful a lady in distress, and a slave, condoled her misfortunes, and by their conversation together, they came to discover one another. But we drop this matter for the present, and return to Brandifer, who having the twelve peers in prisons, thought it was now the time to attempt the subversion of that country, and

ever, considering of what advantage the reduction of the city of Angory was to him, having instructed his daughter in all that was necessary for the safety of the prisoners, he departed, to put himself at the head of his army.

Valentine, who kept the city for King Pepin, seeing the sudden approach of his army, was under great consternation; but calling to Pacolet, who bid him fear nothing, for he would soon find better news, and so departed to the host of King Lucar, who by enchantment he brought back with him to Angory, and made a present of him to Valentine. Some hours after, Lucar waked, and Pacolet asking him a merry question, he struck a knife into his heart, so deep, that he immediately died, for which unlucky accident Valentine was sore troubled. Soon after this Brandiffer missed Lucar, and hearing that he was prisoner in Angory, sent messengers to Valentine, to offer him any prisoner in exchange for Lucar: it was agreed, that King Pepin should be sent in exchange, which agreement was punctually performed.

CHAP. XXXIX.

How Myllon Daugler was taken for the king of France, and delivered out of prison in lieu of King Lucar. How Valentine beats the Saracens in a pitched battle; how King Pepin is exchanged for the king of the Indies admiral, and hastens to France to the succour of his wife.

BRandiffer knowing Valentine's mind, sent a messenger forthwith to his daughter Galary who kept the castle, willing her to deliver the king of France to them. She in obedience to her

father's command, calls the jailor, and bids him bring forth the king of France: upon which he goes to the supposed king, and tells him, that he is come to set him at liberty. Duke Myllon thinking that he meant to put him to death, replied, That he was ready to lay down his life for his religion. The jailor said, Sir, it is no such thing, for you are to be exchanged for a Pagan king. Which when Henry heard, he repented his not having personated the king. Duke Myllon, after having comforted the emperor of Greece and Orson, took his leave of the lady, and went along with the messenger. When they came before Brandiffer, he said, King, I sent for you, in order to have you exchanged for my son Lucar, who is now Valentine's prisoner. The duke said, Sir, if he is not delivered according to your desire, I shall put myself again into your hands; so the duke departed to Angory. At his coming he embraced Valentine, and told him what had happened to himself and King Pepin, which when Valentine heard, he applauded his loyalty, and caused King Lucar to be dismissed, after he had bid him beware of falling into his hands again, least he should revenge himself on him for Paoolet's death. Having [illegible] thereof strength by the duke's [illegible] against the enemy with an army of fifty thousand men, began a sharp and bloody fight, in which both Duke Myllon and himself behaved right valiantly, who was so desirous of honour, that he fought his passage almost to Brandiffer's standard, where his horse was killed by an Indian admiral, and himself would have perished, had not Duke Myllon relieved him with a fresh horse, on which he retired from the field, and after a short stay returned with the admiral prisoner; which Brandiffer [illegible] seeing,

ing, and finding they had the worſt, reſolved to embark for their own dominions: ſo retiring diſorderly, the Chriſtians purſued, and but one hundred eſcaped alive, ſo the Chriſtians returned from the purſuit, laden with plunder.

After they had buried the dead, Valentine cauſed the priſoners to be brought before him, among them was an Indian admiral. Duke Myllon demanded of what country he belonged to; I am, ſaid he, an Indian admiral. Duke Myllon turned to Valentine, and ſaid, Since we have taken him, we will exchange him for King Pepin. So they enquired of him; whither he did not know a Chriſtian of low ſtature, in his maſter's court; to which he anſwered, he did: Then Valentine told him, that if his maſter would releaſe him, they would give him his liberty. The admiral was very glad at this, and ſo preſently wrote to his maſter. The king willingly agreed to this propoſal, not knowing his dwarf was the great King Pepin: ſo calling him, ſaid, You muſt go to be exchanged for my admiral, now priſoner amongſt the Chriſtians. King Pepin returned him thanks: ſo going to Clerimond, he ſaid, that Valentine would ſoon come and releaſe her. So he departed towards Angory, and was received with great joy by the French, where he told Valentine the good news of Clerimond's being alive, and was in India. His ſpeech being ended, they delivered the admiral to the meſſengers, and Valentine retired to his cloſet, to tranſcribe the words, which were in Pacolet's tables, which did him great ſervice, in regard to the ſafety of his life, as will be ſhown hereafter. Whilſt King Pepin was at Angory, news was brought him, that Arthur king of Britain had invaded France, which made

him

him resolve to go forth to suppress the usurper.

CHAP. XL.

How Valentine under the shape of a physician, goes to India to speak with Clerimond, and goes away with her. How the king of Britain was delivered by King Pepin. How the emperor, Orson and the green knight, went to the assistance of Valentine besieged in Angory. How Valentine ignorantly killed his father, and afterwards with Orson returns to Greece.

NEws being brought to Valentine of Clerimond, he resolved to take shipping with the Indian merchant, attended only by his squire, and after a long voyage arrived in that king's dominions, and there put himself in the habit of a physician, who undertook to cure any distemper, especially madness. At last the tidings of his skill came to the king's ear, and thinking he might recover Clerimond, sent for him; and being at dinner, caused him sit down, and thus said, Sir, I have a beautiful lady in my palace, whom I would fain make my queen, but her being possessed with Lunacy, obstructs it; now if you can restore her to her lost reason, I will give what ever you ask. Valentine replied, Great king, I doubt not effecting it, so your majesty grant my being alone with her all night, to observe the nature of the frenzy; to which the king agreed. Now in the middle of the night, Valentine espying Pacolet's horse in a secret place of the chamber, and well knowing the use of him, he with Clerimond, and his squire, mounted immediately, and rode through the air,

to

to Angory, where they were joyfully received, and the marriage rites performed. Next morning the Indian king missing the lady, he caused search to be made through all his dominions, but to no purpose.

These affairs standing thus, we speak next of King Pepin, who now is upon his journey to France, to assist his wife against the king of Britain, who pressed her so very hard, she was forced to fly for succour, with her son Charles, to Lyons, where, by the assistance of the duke of Anjou, she made a noble stand, till King Pepin arrived with a great army to her relief; upon whose arrival, the king of Britain was taken by his own party, and brought to King Pepin, who ordered his head to be cut off. Valentine being sensible that the castle wherein his father was confined, was no ways to be taken but by treachery, disguises himself like a merchant, and in twelve ships, manned with two thousand men, and loaded with all sorts of precious commodities, landed at the enchanted castle, and going directly to the gate, he met the porter, and told him, he was a merchant bound to Spain, with ships laden with goods of great value, and that he was come according to the custom of the country, to pay tribute. The porter said, I will go to my lady first.

The lady, when she heard the matter, ordered the seneschal to go and receive the tribute, but willed to take a band of soldiers with him. Whereupon Valentine's men set upon them and slew them: afterwards he ordered fifty of his company to put on the Saracens gown over their armour, and load themselves with silk, and post to the castle; which when the porter saw, he let down the draw-bridge; whereupon Valentine seized and car-

carried him to the ships, where shewing him the dead bodies, he told him, he would [illegible] make him like them, unless he gave him entrance into the castle. The porter being terrified by his menaces, shewed him a private postern; at which he entered, and going to the chamber of his [illegible] lazy; who being frighted at his appearance and the shouts of his companions, earnestly entreated him to spare her life and virginity.

After the Pagans were all slain, Valentine went to the dungeon, and set the emperor, Orson, and all the other Christians at liberty, who made great rejoicing. In which time Orson fell in love with Galaxy, and after the death of Pezoro, married her, and by her had a son, called Ofayr, who was afterwards emperor of Constantinople.

At length a council was called, wherein it was concluded, that Orson and the green knight should remain there, whilst Valentine and the rest should dressed themselves for Angory, except Humfrey and Henry, who returned to France; where being arrived, they plotted together, how to destroy their father, and their little brother Charles; and soon after poisoned the king, and Queen Bertha; but little Charles happening under the keeping of Millon Daugler, their treason had no effect on him.

Now after this duke Myllon by Humfrey and Henry, was imprisoned, but the child was preserved by a knight; where we will leave him, and return to duke Myllon, whose lady first [illegible] Valentine of what happened; who when he heard was sorry, but vowed to release duke Myllon, and be revenged on the two traitors, and [illegible] ing mounting Pacolet's horse, he set forward towards France; where being come, he [illegible] freed the duke, and soon after [illegible]

Angory; in whose absence Brandiffer with his host had planted their siege. The emperor hearing that Angory was besieged, he, with Orson, the green knight and 1000 men, took shipping; but in their passage was set upon by a fleet of Saracens, on which a bloody battle ensued, but the Christians overthrew them, and by the advice of the emperor they put on the arms of the dead Saracens; but this proved fatal as you shall hear. After a [illegible] siege, Valentine resolved on a battle, in the heat of which, news came that a fleet of Saracens was entered the haven: Upon which Valentine gave orders to strengthen the passages. By this time the emperor had landed his men; whom Valentine, seeing armed like Saracens, taking his father to be their leader, he with great force run against him, and thrust his spear through his body: and when he was told he had slain his father, he fell into a swoon from his horse; but coming to himself again, alas! said he, what have I done? But by the help of duke Myllon and Orson, he was remounted, and like a man careless of life, rushed into the thickest of the battle, so that all that were before him perished, and at last meeting with Brandiffer, he with one blow clove his head; which King Beaumont his brother seeing, quitted the field, and the Christians pursuing, slew many thousand; but night drawing on, they returned into the city. Next morning, in burying the dead, there were great lamentations made for the emperor of Greece, who was royally interred in the city of Angory. The Pagans being put to flight, and the battle ended, Valentine and Orson intended to go for Greece; but before their departure they crowned the green knight king of Angory; then taking their leave, they set sail for Constantinople,

Constantinople. Where being arrived, they were received with the utmost kindness by the good Lady Bellisant, who was extremely rejoiced to see the valiant princes her sons, until she heard the unwelcome news of the death of the emperor her husband, which turned her joy into tears.

After the empress's mourning was over, and matters settled, it was agreed that both the brothers should jointly govern the empire: but Valentine continued not long in that state, for he resolved on a pilgrimage to the holy sepulchre; so calling for his wife Clerimond, he took leave of her, desiring to be recommended to his mother and brother Orson, and left his beloved consort in tears.

CHAP. XLI.

How Valentine took leave of Clerimond, before his pilgrimage. How King Hugon demanded Clerimond to wife, and betrayed Orson and the green knight. How Clerimond discovered Hugon's treason, and Orson and the green knight were put to flight.

VAlentine having comforted his wife [illegible] he could, desired her to give him her wedding ring, which he divided between them. My love, said he, keep your half, and believe nothing of me, till you see the other part of it. [illegible] he embraced her and so departed, and took his abode in a wood, where he remained till he was almost worn out of remembrance. [illegible] he had been there seven years, he returned to Constantinople, though unknown to any [illegible] of his pilgrim's habit, in which he went [illegible] about the city, and at last came to [illegible]

[illegible] almost super-[illegible], and [illegible] that would have beat him away, had not Orson forbid them, saying, I love all strangers for my brother Valentine's sake, so he continued there sometime. In these days there was a king of Hungary named [illegible], who hearing Valentine was dead, made love to the lady Clerimond; but she rejected all his proffers: which Hugon perceiving, pretends that he was determined on a journey to the holy sepulchre, and at the same time requested Orson to accompany him; to which he consented, but said, let us first go to Angory, and take the green knight along with us. This being concluded, they departed towards Angory, where they found all in ready to receive them; and after a short stay, he went with them to Jerusalem, (where Hugon betrayed them both into the hands of the king of Jewry, who caused them both to be imprisoned) and soon after he wrote a letter to Clerimond, (in the name of Orson) intimating that Valentine was dead, and that she should not dispose of herself any other way by marrying Hugon. With this letter one Galaran was sent to Constantinople; who was followed by Hugon. Being come, they luckily found means to deliver it to Clerimond; which when she saw, she grew exceeding sorrowful; and at the very instant as she was reading it, Valentine came in a pilgrim's habit, and told her Valentine was living. Hugon being present, and fearing his plot would come to light, immediately took horse and rode away: where we shall leave him, and say something of the two prisoners.

The king of Jewry (as hath been said) having the two knights in custody, sent for them and solemnly swore, that unless they would deliver to him the

[illegible] of dangerous, he would [illegible] them to do. How they were forced to yield to his commands, and accordingly he set them free, and they returned to Constantinople, but they vowed to be revenged on Hugon, which accordingly came to pass; but soon after he was slain in single combat by the green knight; by which means his treason came to be more manifest, and rendred Orson the empire.

CHAP. XLII.

How Valentine died at Constantinople, and Orson became a hermit.

SOon after Valentine's return to Constantinople he fell dangerously sick, and being made sensible by a vision, he should expire in a few days, he made sign for pen, ink, and paper, and wrote, "That it was he was the pilgrim that discovered Hugon's treason." And after having put the half ring into the paper, and closed it up, he calmly laid himself down, and gave up the ghost.

When Orson saw that he was dead, he attempted to take the paper, which he still held in his hand, but the hand would not open, until Clarimond came, and then it opened of its own accord. When she had looked into the letter, and found there the half ring, says she, Now, we indeed have here news of Valentine. Upon the reading of the letter, great lamentations were made, especially by Clarimond: Alas! says she, I have lost all my joy, in my dearest lord; and to augment my misery, that he should die so near me, and I had no notice of it. Great preparations were made for his interment, which was performed with great

FINIS.